Alabama Chess Antics

Newsletter of the Alabama Chess Federation November 1996

Final Round, 1996 Alabama State Championship at Auburn University at Montgomery.
Top : Richard Frye vs. Daniel Thomas. Bottom: John O'Connor vs. James Richardson.

What's Inside	
Matters of interest to ACF members	
From the Editor *by Rhodes Peele*	2
President's Message *by Bill Melvin*	3-4
ACF Officers List & Board Meeting Announcement	3
"Heart of Dixie" Chess Tour Announcement	6-7
Chess Foundation of Alabama	8
Tournament Display ads and Calendars	
Magic City Open	5
1996 Alabama State Postal Championship	7
Upcoming Tournaments *by Kenneth Sloan*	19
Super Bowl Scholastic and Caesar's Chess Calendar	26
1996 Alabama State Chess Championship	
News and Analysis *by 'Minnie Persons'*	9-12
Farewell to ACF *by Maj. Zachary Z. Kinney*	13
Crosstables	14-15
Games and Analysis	
The U.S. Open *by Andrew Whatley*	16
Road to a 2300 Rating (Part I) *by Bill Melvin*	17-19
Stranger in a Strange Land *by David Hayes*	20-21
Scholastic Chess	
Junior Team Championship *by Kenneth Sloan*	22,23,29
Springville Road Library Scholastic Crosstables	24
Legal's Legacy *by Jack Mallory*	25
Al. Scholastic Lending Library *by Vasha Rosenblum*	27-28
Rules for Scholastic Championships *by Sam Whatley*	27
Other Tournament Reports	
First Sunday Quads *by Kenneth Sloan*	21
Third Greater Alabama Open *by Caesar Lawrence*	29,31
1996 Birmingham Championship *by Kyle Therrell*	30-31

From the Editor
by Rhodes Peele

I am really delighted with the way this issue turned out! I think it shows what is possible when the ACF membership pulls together and works as a team. It is no accident that "cooperation" was one of the commitments Bill Melvin made in his campaign for the ACF Presidency. Just about every chess friend and acquaintance I know in Alabama contributed in one way or another to this issue. Many of these contributors' names appear explicitly in the Table of Contents at left, but many more worked behind the scenes in various ways. I especially want to thank **Don Chambless**, a colleague at AUM (not a chessplayer as far as I know) who came to my rescue when my computer crashed the week before my deadline, **Michael Schaetzle** for installing the software that produces the beautiful chess diagrams you see in this and the last issue, **Jack Mallory** for contributions that couldn't be fitted into this issue but will appear in the next one, our well-connected Vice-President **Lamar Daniel** for talking most of his friends into writing an article and for help with proofreading, **Jeff Lake** and **Dick Rhea** for their continued help in getting *Antics* published at a very nominal cost, and **Barbara Reeder** for the photographs that grace the cover (there should be more next issue).

I am shooting for a **mailing deadline** of **January 31** for the next issue because I want it to be in readers' hands a couple of weeks prior to the **Queen of Hearts** (planning for this tournament has just started). This makes it necessary to set a **contributor's deadline** of **January 3** so that I will have two weekends to assemble the issue and Jeff and Dick will have about two weeks to get it published and in the mail to the membership. Because of the Christmas holidays, most contributors will probably want to write their article(s) before Christmas. This will also help me by giving me a head start. I don't think the next issue will be as large as this one, but who knows?

President's Message
by Bill Melvin

Hello Alabama! I am excited about being your new ACF President! The future looks bright in Alabama chess and I look forward to guiding the state through uncharted waters. During my first President's letter, I would like to thank the former administration, introduce the new administration, and outline plans for the future. Please bear with me if I ramble a little, but I've got a lot of exciting ideas on my mind right now!

Walter Schaetzle will be sorely missed as the departing ACF President. Walter has done a tremendous job raising Alabama chess to unforseen levels. His work bringing National USCF tournaments to Alabama combined with his support of scholastic chess, chess camps, etc., has been a boon to Alabama chess. Fortunately for us, Walter plans to stay involved in Alabama chess. He has plans for bringing National (and International!) chess to Alabama which deserve our full support. He also has submitted the winning bid for the 1997 Alabama State Scholastic Individual Championships. It is my sincere hope that Walter continues to be involved in the future. We already owe him a debt that we cannot hope to repay!

Ken Sloan will be a tough act to follow as ACF Vice-President. Ken is definitely Mr. Chess in Birmingham (no — make that Dr. Chess!) and a heavy contributor of advice and wisdom throughout the state. Although much of his emphasis has been on scholastic chess, he has used his extensive intelligence in all areas of Alabama chess. He has also been very much involved at the national level especially with regards to the important Ratings Committee. Ken continues to do an outstanding job with the ACF internet World Wide Web site and I hope that he continues to offer this vital service. Thanks, Ken!

Jeff Lake has done a fine job as ACF Treasurer. The ACF currently has a positive cash balance and I think that speaks wonders for the departing Treasurer (as well as the entire administration). I understand that Jeff plans to stay involved as publisher of the Antics. Hopefully, Jeff and his pleasant personality will continue to contribute in other areas as well.

(continued on page 4)

ACF Executive Officers

Bill Melvin, President

Lamar Daniel, Vice-President

Dr. Rhodes Peele, Treasurer and Editor

Jack C. Mallory, Secretary

Sam Whatley, Scholastic Vice-President

ACF Executive Board Meeting

An ACF Executive Board Meeting will be held at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, December 8 at the playing site of the **Magic City Open** (see display ad on page five). All are invited to attend and help coordinate future state activities. The ACF Executive Board includes the Executive Officers and also a representative for each ACF Affiliate. Few people seem to be aware that each ACF Affiliate has such representation. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. ACF memberships
2. ACF finances
3. Chess Foundation of Alabama elections - Board of Directors.
4. Review of upcoming state tournaments.
5. General discussion topic: What can be done to improve chess in Alabama at the State level?

Two of the old-timers are sticking around for another term. Jack Mallory continues to be a wise sage in all Alabma chess matters. He has already provided more guidance than I expected for an entire year. The initial transition period should be relatively painless due to Jack's help. Sam Whatley has been around Alabama chess longer than any other 'non chess player'. His son Andrew is one of the true rising stars in Alabama chess. Sam's level head has been a valuable asset in the past and will continue to be of use in the future.

The new ACF President is: me! I am an optimist who is not afraid of making mistakes. I support all areas of chess development and am fully aware of the tradeoffs involved when working with limited resources. I don't have all of the answers nor all of the questions. Please call me if you have either.

Lamar Daniel is the incoming ACF Vice-President. Lamar is a good friend and I highly respect his opinions. Lamar decided to run for this office to improve chess in Alabama. This is the purest of motives. He is one of Alabama's strongest chess players (a master) and also one of the state's friendliest chess players (also a master!). We are so lucky to have Lamar helping us!

Rhodes Peele is the incoming ACF Treasurer. Rhodes wears many hats for the ACF - he is also the current Antics editor! This 1996 Alabama State Champion plays a mighty fair game of chess as well! We are fortunate to have his attention to detail and pleasant disposition handling the state's finances.

Now that you've been introduced to the State's five current Officers, you might wonder what they do. Well, ACF doesn't have weekly meetings (like your local club) and we don't publish a monthly magazine and handle ratings (like USCF). But, we are uniquely positioned to coordinate chess activities within Alabama. This generally involves empowering other enthusiastic individuals to improve specific areas of Alabama chess. So, we really need help from the membership.

Our initial plans for the future at the State level are:

- Publish **four informative, timely issues of the Antics** each year. Without a good state publication, it is difficult to accomplish much at the state level. Please submit contributions so that this most important publication can be prepared with minimal difficulty.
- Hold a State coordinated Grand Prix called the **"Heart of Dixie Tour".** Details of this event can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this publication.
- **Encourage ogranizers** to hold more State level tournaments. We've got the State Individual, State Scholastic, and State Scholastic Team. We plan to officially sanction the State Closed and add many others. Possibilities include: State Intercollegiate, State Senior, State Women's, State Team, State Amateur, State Class, etc. The key is empowering organizers to call their tourney the Alabama State XYZ Championship. We should do this even if every event cannot be held each year. Naturally, the State Open Championship will still remain the state's biggest annual event.

  Progress is being made in this area. Caesar Lawrence will hold the Alabama State Game/29 Quick Chess Championship next May. Ed Meehan and Charles Yarbrough report interest in a State Intercollegiate tournament. At least two other organizers have expressed an interest in holding a State level event. The possibilities are exciting!

- **Establish some sort of State coordinated team competition.** Ideally, this would be similar to Germany's Bundesliga (I'm dreaming!) whereby each city has one or more chess teams which play periodically in a league. Ideas for eventually getting to this destination are most welcome. For now, it would seem progressive to merely sanction a State team tournament. Once enough Alabama chess players have been exposed to the excitement of team chess, it seems likely that interest will snowball. Incidentally, the USCF is looking into this area on a national level as well
- We are interested in **assisting in the implementation of YOUR idea.** You should a) know other people who support the idea; and b) be willing to take a personal stake in its implementation. All things are possible..

The coming year looks exciting. Implementation of the outlined plan will involve more people than just the state's five officers. We need your support and your help to improve the ACF. Without active involvement of the membership, the ACF is nothing.

Magic City Open 1996

December 7 and 8

at School of Education Building, University of Alabama at Birmingham.
901 Thirteenth Street South, Birmingham Alabama

USCF Rated 5-Round Swiss System. Two Sections, Open and Reserve.

USCF required, and ACF for Alabama residents. (Other states OK).
Wheelchair accessible. No smoking in tournament room.

Open Section
(Open to all.)

Entry fee: $35 if received by Nov. 30*; $40 at site.**

First prize	$250
Second prize	$150
Expert prize	$100
A prize	$100

Reserve Section
(Open to under 1800.)

Entry fee: $35 if received by Nov. 30*; $40 at site.**

First prize	$175
Second prize	$115
C prize	$85
D and E prize	$85
Unrated prize	$65

* Send advance entries to: Rich Bellezza
Checks payable to: Birmingham Chess Club.

** Registration: 8:30 - 9:15 on December 8.

Time controls: 40 moves in 90 minutes, then sudden death in 60 minutes.

Rounds: Saturday, 9:30, 2:30 and 7:30; Sunday, 9:30 and 2:30.

10 Novag Grand Prix Points! - A Heart of Dixie Tour Event!
Full prize fund ($1125) based on 45 entries. Two top prizes in each section guaranteed 100%; 80% of remaining prizes guaranteed.

1996/7 "Heart of Dixie" Chess Tour

The Alabama **"Heart of Dixie"** Chess Tour is a year-long contest to help promote Alabama Chess participation and competition. The inaugural "Heart of Dixie" tour will span from October 1, 1996 through the 1997 Alabama State Championship.

For a tournament to qualify as an Alabama Heart of Dixie Tour event, it must meet the following requirements:

- It must be **USCF rated.**
- It must **require ACF dues** for Alabama residents. No other dues may be required except USCF dues.
- It must be an **open weekend tournament in Alabama** of **at least three rounds** in length.
- It must be **advertised on the ACF WWW Calendar** as an Alabama Heart of Dixie event at least one month in advance.
- A copy of the final **wall chart** and appropriate Heart of Dixie Tour **fees** must be **submitted** to the ACF Secretary within two weeks of the end of the tournament.

Prize Fund

The prize fund will be formed from tournament round fees (USCF Grand Prix events - $5.00 per round; all others - $3.00 per round; Quick rated events - $2.00 per round) and other donations. The ACF is donating $300.00 to the prize fund for the Dixie Tour's inaugural year. Prizes will be awarded to top players of each class by the following percentages of the prize fund:

Master/Expert	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	ClassE/Unrated
1st - 10%	1st - 10%	1st - 8%	1st - 8%	1st - 8%	1st - 8%
2nd - 5%	2nd - 5%	2nd - 5%	2nd - 5%	2nd - 5%	2nd - 5%
3rd - 3%	3rd - 3%	3rd - 3%	3rd - 3%	3rd - 3%	3rd - 3%

(continued next page)

Conditions of Awarding Prizes

- The final class standing of a player will be determined by the August 1997 USCF rating supplement.
- Players must be ACF members to accumulat Heart of Dixie points.

Earning Heart of Dixie Points

ACF members may earn Heart of Dixie points as follows:

Each player participating in an Alabama USCF Grand Prix Heart of Dixie Tour event will earn 20 points. Players participating in the Alabama State Championship will earn 30 Points. Players participating in all other Heart of Dixie Tour events will earn 10 points. Players must complete at least half of the scheduled rounds in any tournament to earn these points.

Players will be awarded additional Heart of Dixie points for a positive performance result in any Heart of Dixie event by the formula:

(wins - losses) x (number of rounds) = performance points.

A maximum of 20 performance points will be awarded for any one-day event. Players must complete the tournament to earn any performance points. Unplayed games except for byes or forfeit wins will be counted as losses for this calculation. Full-point byes will be counted as wins.

1996 Alabama State Postal Chess Championship

John B. Morash Jr. is organizing the 1996 Alabama Alabama State Postal Chess Championship.

The tournament will start sometime in December, most likely with a $20.00 entry fee. A round-robin is planned and this could mean cutting off entries at 10, but this has not been necessary in past years.

Please direct inquiries to Mr. Morash.

CHESS FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA

Chess Foundation of Alabama

Dear Chessplayer:

A few years ago, a charitable organization was formed to promote chess and chess education for the residents of the state of Alabama. That organization is the Chess Foundation of Alabama.

The Foundation is having to raise funds. All funds raised will be accumulated and invested. Income from those funds will be used for the Foundation's charitable activities, i.e., help promote scholastic chess programs, both existing and undeveloped; chess camp scholarships; continued publication of the Alabama Chess Federation quarterly newsletter, Alabama Chess Antics, and other chess-promoting endeavors consistent with the Foundation's status as a tax-exempt organization. We solicit your participation in support of the Foundation's efforts to expose even more of our state's citizens, both young and old, to the challenge and stimulation of this time-honored game of strategy, tactics, concentration and patience.

Please join us now in this endeavor. We offer three categories of sponsorship: Under $10, Donor; $11-$25, Sponsor; $26 and Over, Benefactor. We will be happy to mail you a copy of the Foundation's By-Laws and/or Articles of Incorporation upon receipt of your request and a $30 or more contribution. All contributions are **tax deductible**, and a receipt will be supplied at your request.

Checks should be made payable to the **Chess Foundation of Alabama.** Should you prefer to make a pledge, please do so by telephone or fax to the numbers indicated above.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - SUPPORT CHESS IN ALABAMA !!!

Sincerely,

Richard W. Ellis
President

Chess for Life

1996 Alabama Chess Championship
by 'Minnie Persons'

Alabama's Labor Day weekend State Chess Championship has a long history and a rich tradition. It was already well-established in the early sixties when the Tournament Calendar section of *Chess Life* consisted of only about 2 1/2 pages, and it was one of the early tournaments in which the talent of Stuart Rachels, a future United States cochampion (1990) and international master, began to flower.

This year's tournament was held at Auburn University at Montgomery. The Open Section attracted 36 players (including 6 from outside Alabama), while the Reserve Section (under 1600) drew 18 players. There was also a small Scholastic tournament on Saturday, in which nine young chessplayers participated.

USCF Expert and near-Master Richard Frye from Florida, won the $400 First Prize in the Open Section, ceding only two draws in six rounds. Alabamams Brent Inman and Rhodes Peele and Georgian Timothy Brookshear tied for second. Inman and Peele are therefore Alabama cochampions for 1996 since this title is restricted to Alabama residents. Inman showed great resourcefulness in bad positions, while Peele, a class A player, managed to play four experts and one 2300 master without losing a game.

Alabama's top scholastic players are among the best in the nation, and usually choose to play in adult tournaments when adult and scholastic tournaments occur in parallel. One of these, twelve-year-old USCF Expert Daniel Thomas, created a sensation in the third round of the Open Section by beating its highest rated player, USCF Master Bill Melvin. Daniel lost in the final round to Richard Frye, but nevertheless posted an impressive rating improvement and should remain near the top of the USCF shortlist for his age bracket.

The hero of the Reserve Section was James Richardson, a fourteen-year-old Montgomerian who chose to play in the Reserve Section rather than the scholastic tournament even though his prerating was only 1325. James lost his first-round game, but went on to win the remaining five. This gained him the $300 First Prize and a rating improvement of almost 100 points!

Rich Bellezza of Douglasville, Georgia directed both the Open and Reserve Sections. AUM's Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Dr. Joe Boyer, was instrumental in securing AUM's facilities for the tournament.

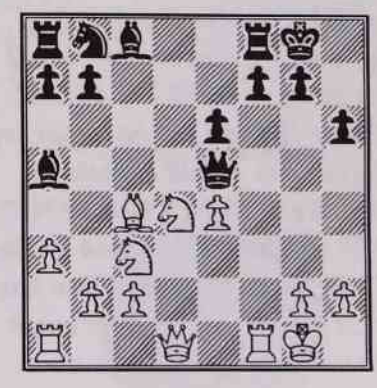
The following pages feature a selection of games from the tournament.

- Rhodes Peele -

Alabama State Championship
Third Round, Sept. 1, 1996

Andy Reeder (1986)	Richard Frye (2120)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.f3 Nf6 5.e4 de 6.Nc3 e6 (More common is 6.ef3 7.Nf3 with an unclear position - Andrew Whatley. *6. ...e6 looks bad to me. Now White has a big center and good squares for his pieces and Black has very little, not even a pawn.- Lamar Daniel.)* **7.fe Bb4 8.Bg5** *(8.Qd3 looks better. The bishop is on a good square - no reason to move him.)* **8. ...h6 9.Bf6 Qf6 10.Nf3 O-O 11.a3 Ba5** *(11. ...Bc3 12.bc Nc6 looks much better for Black.)* **12.Bc4** (Better is 12.b4 Bb6 13.Ne2 followed by 14.c3 solidifying the center for White. *In this line I prefer 13. Na4 not tying White's pieces up with the idea of c3.)* **12. ...c5 13.O-O cd 14.Nd4 Qe5** (Now White's Knight becomes a pain to protect.)



Position after ***14. ... Qe5***

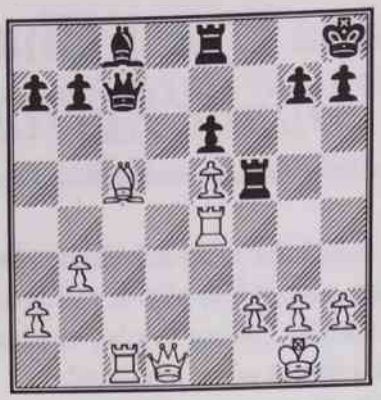
15. Qd3 Bb6 16.Nce2 Nc6 17.c3 Qd6 *(White is lost.)* **18.Ba2 e5 19.Qg3 Qe7 20.Kh1 ed 21.Nf4 Bc7** (All Black needs to do is trade pieces and not get mated.) **22.cd Bf4** *(22. ...Qe4 looks good too.)* **23. Rf4 Nd4 24.Rh4 Qg5 25.Qg5 hg 26.Rh5 Be6 27.Bd5 Bd5 28.ed f6 29.Rd1 Rfe8 30.h4 Nf5 31.Kh2 g6** 0-1

-Andrew Whatley & Lamar Daniel-

Alabama State Championship
Third Round, Sept. 1, 1996

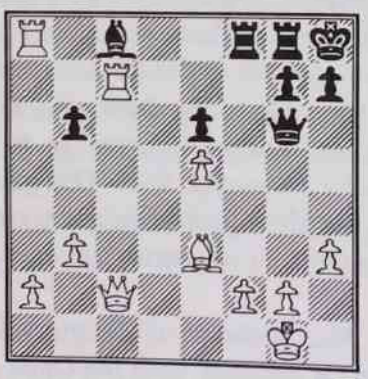
Rhodes Peele (1923)	Brent Inman (2169)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6 8.Nf3 cd 9.cd f6 10.ef Nxf6 11.O-O Bd6 12.Re1 *(12.Bf4 Bf4 13.Nf4 Qb2 14.Rb1 Qa2 15.Ng5 O-O 16.Ra1 Qb2 17.Rb1 with equality and a possible draw by repetition is note (o)(A) on p. 230 of MCO 13 - Lamar Daniel.)* **12. ...O-O 13.Nc3 Bd7 14.Na4?** *(Better is 14.Be3 with the old idea that if 14. ...Qb2, then 15.Nb5 Bb8 or Be7 16.Rb1 Qa2 17.Ra1 Qb2 18.Ra4 followed by 19.Bc1 trapping the Q)***14. ...Qa5 15.b3 Kh8** *(probably preparing ...Ng4 which if played now would lose a pawn to 16.Bh7+)* **16.Bd2 Qc7** *(The BQ will not be happy on the c-file. 16. ...Qd8 is better.)* **17.Rc1 Rae8 18.Nc5 Bc8 19.Ne5 Ne5 20.de Bc5 21.Be3 Ne4 22.Be4 de 23.Bc5 Rf5 24.Re4** *(White has won his pawn back and has much the better game.)*



*Position after **24. ... Re4***

24. ...b6 25.Be3 Qf7 26.R4c4 *(White's pieces are much more active and have squares to attack)* **26. ...Ba6 27.Rc7 Qg6 28.Ra7** *(Now White's two pawns and better pieces should win even though it's bishops of opposite colors.)* **28. ...Bc8 29.R1c7 Rg8 30.Qc2 Qe8 31.Ra8 Rff8 32.h3** *(Makes some air just in case, but 32.Bb6 is good too.)* **32. ...Qg6!** *(Setting a cunning trap.)*



*Position after **32. ... Qg6!***

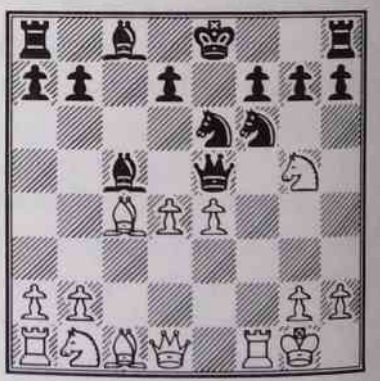
33.Qc1?? *(White obliges. Instead he should play 33.Qg6 and Black could resign.)* **33. ...Bb7!!** *(Winning the exchange with the threat 34. ...Qg2++).* **34.Rb7 Ra8 35.Rb6** *(35. a4 would still win the b-pawn while retaining White's a and b pawns and should still win the game.)* **Ra2 36.Qc4 Re8 37.b4** *(White, demoralized by his blunder on move 33, offers a draw to his higher rated opponent. He could still play to win.)* 1/2 - 1/2

- Lamar Daniel -

Alabama State Championship
Fifth Round, Sept. 2, 1996

Rhodes Peele (1923)	Joseph Couvillion (2013)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Qc7 5.O-O Nf6 6.Ng5 Nd8 7.f4 *(White plays very actively. - Lamar Daniel.)* **7. ...Ne6?** *(7. ...h6, driving the knight to h3, looks better.)* **8.fe** *(Also possible is 8.Nf7! Kf7 9.f5 winning back the piece with a great game.)* **8. ...Qe5 9.d4 cd 10.cd Bc5!?**



*Position after **10. ... Bc5!?***

(Imaginative, but probably not best. Better seems10. ...Qd4+ 11.Qd4 12.Nd4 Nf7 Nc2 13. Nh8 Bc5+ 14.Kh1 Na1 and now 15.e5 Ng4 looks equal, but 15.Nc3 leads to a complicated position which is possibly winning for White.) **11.Ne6 fe 12.dc** *(White sacs a pawn for a*

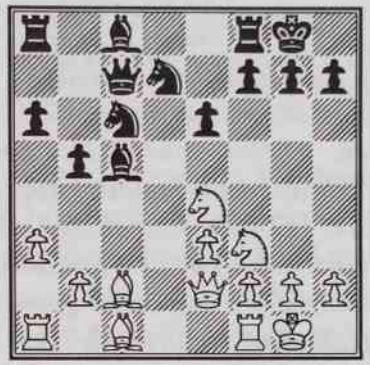
great game.) **12. ...Qc5+ 13.Kh1 Qc4 14.e5 Ng4** *(Now Black's N and K are both hurting.)* **15.Na3** *(Not 15.Rf4?? Qf4! followed by 16. ...Nf2+)* **15. ...Qe4?** *(15. ...Qa6, maintaining some tactical control over the squares b5, c4 and f1, is the only dim hope. Black now looks toasted as long as White avoids 16.Rf4??)* **16.Nb5 Qe5** *(There's nothing better. White now wins a piece.)* **17.Nd6+ Ke7 18.Nc8+ Rac8 19.Qg4 Rcf8 20.Qb4+ Ke8 21.Bd2 Qe2 22.Rfe1 Qf2 23.Bg5** *(White, a chess problem enthusiast, induces a selfblock of f7 for his next mate threat.)* **23. ... Rf7 24.Qb7** 1-0 (Time forfeit.)

- Lamar Daniel -

Alabama Reserve Championship
Fourth Round, Sept. 1, 1996

James Richardson	Thomas Elmes
1325	1316

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dc 3.Nf3 e6 4.e3 c5 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.O-O Nf6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.a3?! *(Here I should have played Qe2, and Rd1 with the intent of playing d5. - James Richardson)* **8. ... O-O 9.Bd3 a6** *(Not 9. ...cd to win a pawn, because of 10.ed Nd4? 11.Nd4 Qd4?? 12.Bh7+.)* **10.Bc2 Qc7 11.Qe2** *(Now I cannot play my intended Qd3. since pawns have not been exchanged and I cannot play my intended kingside attack since my queen's bishop cannot reach g5 to undermine the knight at f6 and I do not have an open e-file to attack the bishop at e7. Since Black now threatens ...Rd8, I need to get my rook on the d-file.)* **11. ...b5?!** *(Attacks on the queenside, but does not take preliminary actions to defend against a still possible Qd3. Probably better was 11. ...Rd8.)* **12.dc** *(I played this to free up my game, since I did not have a chance for a d5 break.)* **12. ...Bc5 13.Ne4** *(Now White's pieces begin to gain activity.)* **13. ...Nd7?** *(Loses a pawn and weakens Black's kingside. Possibly, a better move was 13. ...Be7, though after 14.Qd3, White gets a good position.)*



Position after 13. ...Nd7?

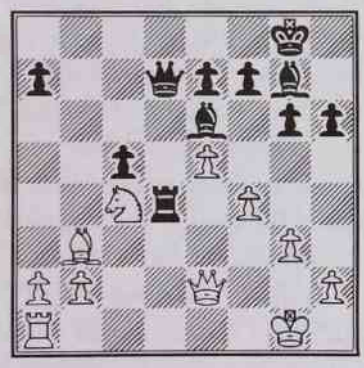
14.Nc5 Nc5 15.Bh7+! Kh7 16.Qc2+ *(After the game, I analized 16.Ng5+, forcing the king to an uncomfortable position, but in the game I decided to safely win the pawn, since he still had a weak kingside. Although the consequences of Ng5+ are harder to calculate (enjoy analyzing!), it wins faster: 16.Ng5+! Kh6 17.Qc2! (17. ...Kg5 18.Qc5+) 1. ...Nd7 18.Qh7+ Kg5 19.Qg7+ Kh5 (19. ...Kf5 20.e4+! Ke4 21.Re1+ Kd5 22.Rd1+ Kc5 23.Be3+ Nd4 24.Rac1+) 20.g4+ Kh4 21.f4! and mate cannot be prevented; 16. ...Kh6 simply gives White an extra tempo in the attack; 16. ...Kg8 17.Qh5 Rd8 18.Qh7+ Kf8 19.Qh8+ Ke7 20.Qg7 Rf8 (20. ...Ne5 21.f4) 21.b4 Nd7 (21. ...Nd3 22.Rd1 Nc1 23.Rac1 Bb7 24.Ne4 and Black cannot play 24. ...Qe5 on account of Qe5 followed by Rc7+) 22.Bb2 Bb7 23.Rfd1 and I think the two pawns and strong attack are more than enough compensation for the piece.)* **16. ...Kg8 17.Qc5 Bb7 18.Bd2 Rfc8?** *(Abandons the kingside and locks out the queenside rook. Better was 18. ...Rfd8.)* **19.Rac1 Qd8 20.Qh5** *(Moving towards the kingside.)* **20. ...f6 21.Rfd1 Ne7 22.Bc3 Qc7 23.h3** *(Making luft for my king so that my bishop can move.)* **23. ...Rd8 24.Qg4** *(Not 24.Bf6? Rd1+)* **24. ...Kf7 25.Nd4 Bc8 26.Bb4 Qb7 27.Qf3** *(I played this to avoid complications along the c8 - h3 diagonal, though 28.Ba5 looks stronger.)* **27. ...Nd5** *(Since Black is down in material, the "rule" is he shouldn't exchange pieces. But if he does not exchange queens, he faces a losing middlegame. Black probably should have exchanged queens, but he would have faced a bad endgame because of problems developing the biship, for example: 27. ...Qf3 28.Nf3 Rd1+ 29.Rd1 Bb7? 30.Rd7.)* **28.Qh5+ Kg8 29.Ba5 Rd7** *(Other moves will allow White to eventually penetrate to the seventh.)* **30.Ne6 Ne3 31.Qe8+** *(If 31.fe, then 31. ...Rd1+ 32.Rd1 Be6.)* **31. ...Kh7 32.Nf8+ Kg8 33.Nd7+ Kh7 34.Qe3 Bd7 35.Rc7** 1-0

- James Richardson -

Alabama State Championship
September 2, 1996

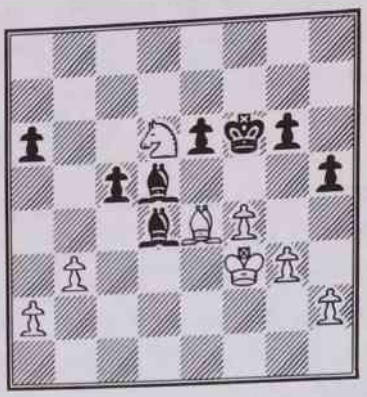
Andrew Whatley 2205 — Richard Frye 2120

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 d6 5.e4 O-O 6.c3 Nbd7 7.Bc4 h6 8.Bh4 c6 9.e5 de 10.de Nd5 11.Bg3 N7b6 12.Bb3 Be6 13.Nd4 Qc8 14.Ne4 Nc7 15.Nc5 Nbd5 16.O-O Rd8 17.Qe2 b6 18.Nc6 *(This gives Black mobility and the d-file. Better is 18.Nce6 Ne6 19.Ne6 Qe6 = . Richard Frye.)* **18. ...bc 19.c4 Rd7 20.cd Nd5 21.Na5 Qc7 22.Nc4 Nb4 23.Rfd1 Rad8 24.f4 Nc6 25.Bf2 Nd4 26.Bd4 Rd4 27.Rd4 Rd4 28.g3 Qd7!**



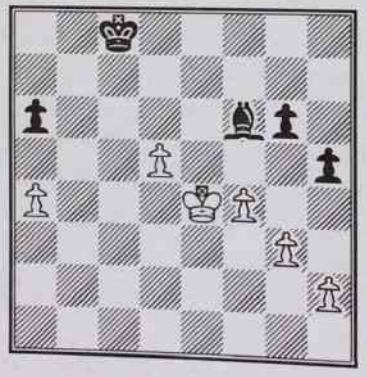
*Position after **28. ...Qd7!***

29.Rd1?? *(29.Rc1!Bc4 30.Rc4 Rd2 31.Qe3 Rb2 32.Rc5 Qh3 32.Rc2 Rb1+ 33.Rc1 Rb2 should draw.)* **29. ...Rd1+** *(29. ...Bc4 is even better.)* **30.Bd1 Qd4+??** *(30. ...Bc4 with an easy win.)* **31.Ne3 f6?** *(31. ...Ba2 looks good.)* **32.ef Bf6 33.b3 h5 34.Kf2 Kg7 35.Bc2 Bg4 36.Qd3 Qd3 37.Bd3 Bd4 38.Be4 e6 39.Bf3 Bf5 40.Bd1 Kf6 41.Kf3 Bd3 42.Bc2 Bb5 43.Nc4 Bc6+ 44.Be4 Bd5 45.Nd6 a6**



*Position after **45. ...a6***

46.Bd5? *(The knight is almost trapped and will have trouble against the bishop and passed pawn. 46.Ne8+ Ke7 47.Nc7 Be4+ 48.Ke4 a5 looks drawish.)* **46. ...ed 47.a4?** *(47.Ne8+Ke6 48.Nc7+ Kd6 49.Na6 Kc6 50.b4 c4 51.a4 saves the knight and maybe the game.)* **47. ...Ke6 48.Nc8** *(48.Nb7 Kd7 49.Na5 Bc3 50.b4 c4 is also lost.)* **48. ...c4 49.bc Kd7 50.cd Kc8 51.Ke4 Bf6**



*Position after **51. ...Bf6***

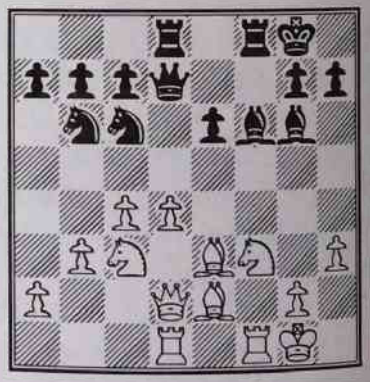
52.h4 Kd7 53.f5 gf + 54.Kf5 Bd4 55.Kg5 Bf2 56.Kh5 Bg3 57.Kg4 Be5 58.Kf5 Kd6 59.Ke4 a5 60.h5 Bg7 61.Ke3 Kd5 62.Kd3 Kc5 63.h6 Bh6 64.Kc3 Bg7+ 65.Kb3 Bf6 66.Ka3 Kc4 67.Ka2 Kb4 68.Kb1 Ka4 69.Kc2 Kb4 70.Kb1 Kb3 71.Kc1 a4 72.Kb1 a3 73.Kc1 a2 *(Black won about 10 moves later.)* **0-1**

- Richard Frye -

Alabama State Championship
Sixth Round, Sept. 2, 1996

Daniel Thomas 2004 — Richard Frye 2120

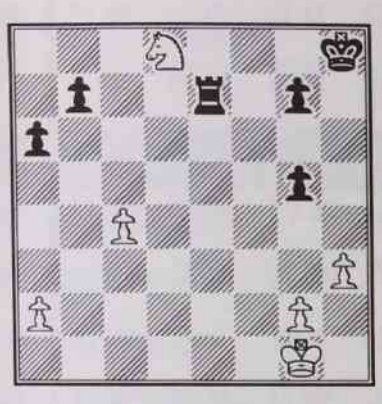
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 de 6.fe Nc6 7.Be3 Bf5 8.Nc3 e6 9.Be2 *(9.Nf3 is main line.)* **9. ...Be7** *(I missed 9. ...Nb4! 10.Rc1 c5 and now: a)11.a3 cd 12.Bd4 Nc6 =/+; b)11.dc Qd1+ -/+; c)11.d5 ed 12.cd Nc4! 13.Qh4+ Kf1 14.Qc4+ =/+. Richard Frye.)* **9. ...Be7 10.Nf3 O-O 11.O-O f6! 12.ef Bf6 13.h3 Qd7 14.Qd2 Rad8 15.Rad1 Bg6 16.b3**



*Position after **16.b3***

16. ...Qe8? *(16. ...Qe7! 17.Rfe1 Rfe8 18.d5 Nb4 19.Nd4 Bd4 20.Bd4 Nc2 =.)* **17.Rfe1 Rd7 18.d5 e5 19.Bc5 Be7 20.Be7 Qe7 21.Qe3?** *(21.Bd3! Bd3 22.Qd3 Nb4 23.Qe2 +/- or 21.Bd3! Rf3?! 22.gf Nd4 23.Qf2 Bh5 24.Be4 Qf6 25.Rf1 Rf7*

26.Rd3 +/-.) **21. ...Nb4! 22.Qe5?** *(22.Rf1 Nc2 23.Qc1 Qc5+ 24.Kh1 Ne3 25.b4 +/-, so 24. ...Qe3 25.Qb2=.)* **23.d6 cd 24.Qe7 Re7 25.c5 Ne1 26.Re1 Nc8 27.cd Rd7 28.Bc4+ Kh8 29.Nb5 a6 30.Ne5 Rdd8 31.Ng6+ hg 32.Re4 g5 33.Nd4 Nd6 34.Re7 Nc4 35.Ne6 Rfe8! 36.Nd8 Re7 37.bc**



Position after 37.bc

37 ...Rc7! *(37. ...Kg8 38.c5 Kf8 39.c6.)* **38.Kf2 b6 39.Ne6 Rc4 40.Ng5 Rc2+ 41.Kf3 Ra2 42.g4 b5 43.Ke3 b4 44.Kd3 b3 45.Kc3 b2 46.Kc2 Ra5 47.Ne4 Rb5 48.Nc3 Rb4 49.Kb1 a5 50.Ka2 a4 51.Nb1 g5 52.Nd2 Kg7 53.Nb1 Kf6 54.Nd2 Ke5 55.h4 gh 56.g5 Kf5 57.g6 Kg6 58.Ka3 b1Q 59.Nc4 Qb3++**

- Richard Frye -

Farewell to ACF
by Maj. Zachary Z. Kinney

I wanted to take this opportunity to say goodbye to the great players in Alabama. I enjoyed playing chess there. My only regret is that I did not get the chance to play more. I've met and made a lot of new chess friends here and I will never forget you.

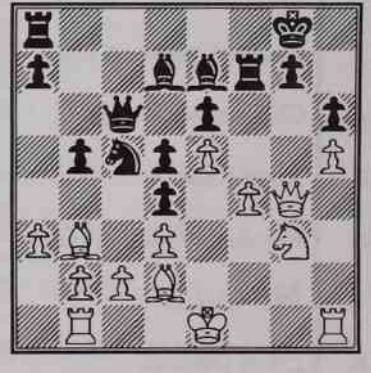
If you are ever in Washington, D.C. look me up, I will be in the telephone book. I tried to establish a chess club on Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. With your support the club can prosper, without your help it will die. Thanks for your support in the past. I want to give special thanks to: Lamar Daniel, Andrew Whatley, Louie DeFiore, Mark Garcia, Ceasar Lawrence. Lonnie James, Rhodes Peele, and James Bowen for the chess friendships and chess support. I'd also like to thank Jim Koerner and Chris Niggel.

I've included one of my last chess games. I played in the Alabama State Chess Championship on August 31 and September 1 and 2, 1996. My final score was 2.5 out of 6. *Roll film!*

Alabama State Championship
August 31, 1996 - Round 2

Valerie Hodgson	Zachary Kinney
1680	1900

1.e4 c5 2.f4 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.a3 Bg4 6.h3 Bd7 7.Bc4 e6 8.d3 Be7 9.Bd2 O-O 10.g4 Nd4 11.g5 Ne8 12.Nd4 cd 13.Ne2 b5 14.Bb3 Qb6 15.h4 Nc7 16.Ng3 d5 17.e5 Na6 18.h5 Nc5 19.Bh2 Na4 20.Rb1 Qc6 21.g6 h6 22.gf+ Rf7 23.Bb3 Nc5 24.Qg4



Position after 24.Qg4

24. ...Nb3 25.cb Qc2 26.Ke2 Qb3 27.Rhc1 b4 28.ab Bb5 29.Qg6 Bb4 30.Bb4 Qb4 31.Qe6 Bd3+ 32.Kd3 Qb3+ 33.Kd4 Qg3 34.Rf1 Rd8 35.Rbc1 Qg2 36.Rc7 Qb2+ 37.Kd3 Qb5+ 38.Kc2 Qa4+ 39.Kd3 Qb5+ 40.Ke3 d4+ 41.Ke4 Qe2 ++

0-1

Alabama State Chess Championship - Open Section - 31 August through 2 September 1996*

	Player	Prev	Perf	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1.	Richard Frye (FL)	2120	2257	2143	W 26	D 21	W 15	D 04	W 05	W 07	5.0
2.	Brent Inman	2169	2241	2181	W 23	W 12	D 04	D 07	W 10	D 03	4.5
3.	Timothy Brookshear (GA)	2100	2169	2112	W 16	D 15	W 29	W 11	D 07	D 02	4.5
4.	Rhodes Peele	1923	2236	1998	W 30	W 34	D 02	D 01	W 11	D 10	4.5
5.	Andrew Whatley	2204	2038	2180	D 22	D 19	W 23	W 09	L 01	W 16	4.0
6.	Stephen Whiteman (GA)	2013	2051	2019	W 27	L 10	W 22	D 18	D 16	W 17	4.0
7.	Daniel Thomas	2004	2204	2051	W 13	W 08	W 10	D 02	D 03	L 01	4.0
8.	Keith Jakeman	1925	1918	1923	W 33	L 07	L 18	W 32	W 29	W 19	4.0
9.	Tim Bond	1921	2136	1969	L 10	W 27	W 24	L 05	W 28	W 14	4.0
10.	Bill Melvin	2313	2055	2273	W 09	W 06	L 07	W 26	L 02	D 04	3.5
11.	Joseph Couvillion (GA)	2013	1964	1999	D 29	W 17	W 21	L 03	L 04	W 18	3.5
12.	Jere Roland	2000	1959	1989	W 28	L 02	L 16	W 23	D 18	W 26	3.5
13.	Caesar Lawrence	1798	1899	1822	L 07	D 33	L 32	W 35	W 31	W 21	3.5
14.	Christopher Niggel	2135	1861	2084	D 25	D 24	W 19	D 16	D 17	L 09	3.0
15.	Andy Reeder	1986	1901	1966	W 35	D 03	L 01	L 17	D 24	W 29	3.0
16.	Raymond Quillian (GA)	1868	2016	1902	L 03	W 35	W 12	D 14	D 06	L 05	3.0
17.	John Morcos	1858	1954	1883	D 20	L 11	W 30	W 15	D 14	L 06	3.0
18.	Louis DeFiore	1804	1991	1843	H bye	D 20	W 08	D 06	D 12	L 11	3.0
19.	Roy Stanton	1703	2033	1759	W 31	D 05	L 14	H bye	W 25	L 08	3.0
20.	Thomas Lawry	2004	1808	1966	D 17	D 18	L 26	D 24	W 30	-	2.5
21.	James Dreading	1925	1807	1896	W 36	D 01	L 11	D 29	D 26	L 13	2.5
22.	John Daughetry	1912	1849	1895	D 05	D 25	L 06	L 28	W 27	D 24	2.5
23.	Mark Couvillion (GA)	1907	1842	1891	L 02	W 28	L 05	L 12	D 32	W 30	2.5
24.	Thomas Campbell	1907	1912	1909	H bye	D 14	L 09	D 20	D 15	D 22	2.5
25.	Mark Liatti	1906	1764	1882	D 14	D 22	H bye	H bye	L 19	D 28	2.5
26.	Zachary Kinney	1900	1933	1906	L 01	W 36	W 20	L 10	D 21	L 12	2.5
27.	Kenneth Sloan	1754	1787	1761	L 06	L 09	W 35	D 31	L 22	W 36	2.5

28.	Scott Helton	1705	1813	1730	L12	L 23	W 36	W 22	L 09	D 25	2.5
29.	Patrick Alford	1774	1858	1793	D 11	W 31	L 03	D 21	L 08	L 15	2.0
30.	David Morrison	1570	1720	1598	L 04	W 32	L 17	W 33	L 20	L 23	2.0
31.	Faustin Weber	1995	1570	1912	L 19	L 29	W 33	D 27	L 13	-	1.5
32.	Walter Schaetzle	1800	1686	1778	L 34	L 30	W 13	L 08	D 23	-	1.5
33.	Phillip Creel	1623	1624	1619	L 08	D 13	L 31	L 30	W 36	-	1.5
34.	Kirk Petty	2030	1862	2015	W 32	L 04	-	-	-	-	1.0
35.	Jason Selvage	1644	1452	1612	L 15	L 16	L 27	L 13	bye	-	1.0
36.	Valerie Hodgson	1630	1381	1580	L 21	L 26	L 28	bye	L 33	L 27	1.0

Alabama State Chess Championship - Reserve Section - 31 August through 2 September 1996*

1.	James Richardson	1325	1736	1421	L 02	W 12	W 16	W 07	W 06	W 04	5.0
2.	James Bowen	1583	1684	1607	W 01	W 07	D 08	L 04	W 05	W 06	4.5
3.	David Key	1538	1570	1546	L 07	W 11	W 15	D 10	W 14	W 08	4.5
4.	John O'Connor	1595	1563	1590	W 09	W 10	L 06	W 02	W 08	L 01	4.0
5.	Josh Wakefield	unr	1515	1515	W 17	L 08	W 13	W 11	L 02	W 10	4.0
6.	Lamar Causey	1542	1479	1527	W 15	W 16	W 04	D 08	L 01	L 02	3.5
7.	Thomas Elmes	1316	1484	1355	W 03	L 02	W 14	L 01	D 10	W 13	3.5
8.	Steve Goforth	1499	1479	1501	W 18	W 05	D 02	D 06	L 04	L 03	3.0
9.	Fred Wood	1321	1331	1324	L 04	W 18	L 10	W 17	L 13	W 14	3.0
10.	Chris Terry	1202	1464	1259	W 14	L 04	W 09	D 03	D 07	L 05	3.0
11.	Richard Smith	unr	1405	1405	D 13	L 03	W 12	L 05	W 16	H bye	3.0
12.	Mohamed Abdel-Ghany	1500	1190	1431	L 16	L 01	L 11	W 18	D 17	W 15	2.5
13.	Robert Rieves	1351	1305	1340	D 11	L 14	L 05	W 16	W 09	L 07	2.5
14.	Rochard Ellis	1500	1205	1428	L 10	W 13	L 07	W 15	L 03	L 09	2.0
15.	Edward Meehan	1298	1288	1295	L 06	W 17	L 03	L 14	W 18	L 12	2.0
16.	David Sloan	1171	1296	1195	W 12	L 06	L 01	L 13	L 11	W 17	2.0
17.	Emily Thomas	1344	1100	1287	L 05	L 15	W 18	L 09	D 12	L 16	1.5
18.	Marcus Jackson	unr	0992	0992	L 08	L 09	L 17	L 12	L 15	bye	1.0

* Ratings are unofficial.

The U.S. Open *by Andrew Whatley*

The U.S. Open is by far the biggest tournament that I have ever competed in. It didn't seem so big the first week, but in round 8, all the five or six parts merged together for a packed house of over 450 people. Although it was considered a small U.S. Open, it was quite an extravaganza for me. I watched some of the leading GM's in the country play some extraordinary moves. It was quite an event less than five miles from our nation's capital.

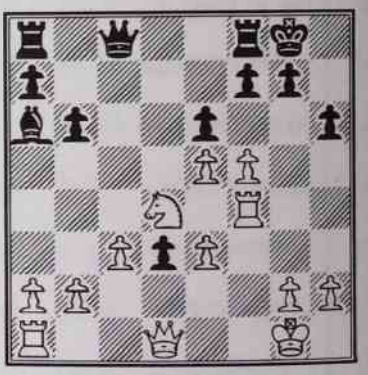
The first week I played each round at 10 A.M. as opposed to the 7 P.M. rounds in the traditional section. It was a small section that first week - only 41 players. But it was no ordinary section after the first round when U.S. Champion, GM Alex Yermolinsky joined us to become the 42nd player. He towered over all the other players in that section by nearly 400 points. Although I made a valiant effort in the fifth round against him, he tore me to shreads when my attack fizzled.

However, this was not his tournament to win. It appears that after he won his first eight games, he began to slack off. Yes, it's true that the day of his ninth round he gave a simul, and not an ordinary one. Only 14 people decided to play him at $25 apiece, and it was almost weird watching him think 20 or more seconds on some moves with his avarage opponent being (I'm guessing) roughly a high class A player. And did he win all of his games? No, in fact he drew one and lost one. Yes, Anthony Rite of Georgia beat the U.S. Champion!! My hat's off to Anthony! Anyway, Yermolinsky lost that night to GM Serper and again the next night to GM Schwartzman. These two later won the tournament with scores of 10 1/2 out of 12 and are the new U.S. Co-champions.

I also had a good tournament, scoring 8 1/2 out of 12. But I was not up to par in the Denker with only 3 out of 5. At any rate, here's a nice game of mine from Round 1 against an 1800 player.

Andrew Whatley Gilbert Ferber

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Nbd7?! *(Black develops a piece but blocks his bishop.)* **4.Nbd2 e6 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 c5 7.c3 O-O 8.O-O h6 9.Bh4 b6** *(This move tries to fianchetto Black's bad bishop. However, it allows White's knight to get to e5, which gives White much space.)* **10.Ne5 Ne5 11.de Nd7 12.Bg3** *(Never exchange an attacker for a defender unnecessarly.)* **12. ...Bb7 13.f4 c4!??** *(This move gives Black's knight a good square at c5. However it is bad for several reasons. First, it gives White a fantastic square for* his *knight at d4. Second, it relieves the tension in the center and allows a very strong break at e4. Finally, what does Black's knight really do at c5? It is true that c5 is a strong square, but Black's knight does not really attack anything from that square.)* **14. Bc2 Nc5 15.Nf3** *(White decides to let Black do his thing while White puts his pieces on their best squares.)* **15. ...Qc8 16.Nd4 Ba6 17.f5** *("Timber....")* **17. ...Bg5 18.Bf4 Bf4 19.Rf4!?** *(I know I must have something good here with the f-file, but keeping the good pawn structure with 19.ef was probably best.)* **19. ...Nd3 20.Bd3 cd**



(Position after 20. ...cd)

21.f6 g6 22.Rh4 Kh7 23.Qg4 Rh8 24.Rh6+ *(White's space pays dividends.)* **24. ...Kg8 25.Rh8+ Kh8 26.Nc6!?!** *(Pretty but more effective after 26.Qh4+ first. After the game move, 26. ...Qc6? would be answered by 27.Qh4+ followed by 28.Qh6 and mate next move.)* **26. ...Qg8 27.Rf1 Qh7 28.Rf3 d2 29.Rh3 Qh3 30.Qh3+ Kg8 31.Ne7+ Resigns**

1-0

Road to a 2300 Rating (Part I) *by Bill Melvin*

I started playing USCF rated tournament chess in June of 1982. My strength at this time was approximately 1400 and I was already able to beat all of my friends at chess. Tournament chess was at a much higher level than anything I'd ever seen. My first rating was in the 1500's and I read approximately 40 books this first year. I played chess constantly and even made the USCF Top 50 most active list during my second year. Total immersion in chess made me improve like a rocket.

My goal was to become a Master (USCF 2200) in six years. To accomplish this, I had an intermediate goal of Expert (USCF 2000) in four years. This was an 'official' goal and I tracked early progress on graph paper! Expert fell in approximately two and a half years. Master proved tougher and I didn't manage to break this barrier until five and a half years after starting. When I broke the 2200 barrier my rating continued to rise to an official 2259 with momentum. When the momentum stopped, my rating plunged back below 2200. Little did I know that I wouldn't see a rating above 2250 for over seven years to come!

All chess players reach a rating 'plateau' after which they never improve significantly. For most people, this plateau is reached after six years of serious tournament chess. If you haven't obtained your goals in six years, you probably never will. People who have gained 200 rating points after their six year peak are few and far between. I am not yet one of these people, either. But, I believe that the 'six year plateau' is a phantom which can be defeated given enough effort.

So, what happened while I was 'stuck' on my rating plateau for all those years? My rating fluctuated between high Expert and low Master. I won a bunch of tournaments including the Alabama State Championship. My perspective on chess changed. I began to realize that I would be an addicted chess player for life.

What single 'thing' contributed to my rating moving to my goal of 2300? I always thought I'd have a 2300 rating when I started playing 2300 chess. Unfortunately, this is the hard part. In 1993 I started working with Daniel Thomas in chess. These sessions caused me to communicate everything I thought I knew about chess. Many inconsistencies in my philosophies began to surface over time. The effort of communicating what is important in chess to Daniel has caused me to re-evaluate my entire approach to chess. Daniel has improved (beating me in the last two State Championships!). But, I also learned much over the past three years. I would not have achieved my 2300 rating goal had it not been for the questioning curiosity of a ten year old!

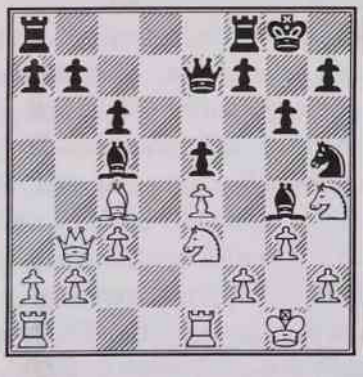
So, let's go through a little journey of my chess over the past nine years. We begin at an Atlanta Action Tournament in 1987. I had been trying to make the Master title for months. I barely made it to the site on time and was only allowed to play the first round when an odd number of players was entered! I won my first three games including a victory over a Master in the third round. I wanted to win my last round game badly.

Atlanta Action Tournament
Nuvember 21, 1987

Bill Melvin	Tom Friedel
(2164)	(2405)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 ed 3.Nf3 (My tried and true move order for playing the Goring Gambit. My opening repertoire was practically all gambits back then! I subsequently decided that good positions could be obtained without nucessarily always going a pawn down. This move order coerced a lot of people into playing the Goring Gambit who don't normally allow a Scotch. Although 3. ...d6 is a Philidor's and 3. ...Nf6 is a sound Petroff, many opponents failed to recognize the available transpositions. The lines I feared the most I never faced. **3. ...Nc6 4.c3 d3** (This is a theoretically acceptable way to decline the gambit. This is an interesting statement since there isn't much theory begind this move. Smith-Morra Gambiteers often see a similar way of turning down their gambit. **5.Bd3 Bc5 6.O-O d6 7.Re1?! Ne5 8.Bf4 Qe7 9.Be5 de** (I didn't re-

spect bishops much back then either. Now, I just glance at the wide open nature of this position and am convinced that Black is nearly winning just because of the bishop pair.) **10.Bc4 Nf6 11.Nbd2 O-O 12.Nf1** (This regrouping isn't very sophisticated at all. My 'plan' was simply to throw all of my men at Black's king. Nothing else in this position mattered to me. I had zero confidence in my endgame technique against a Senior Master. Also, I thought I couldn't win a warof maneuver. But, I thought I had a chance in a tactical melee. But first I had to create one. In retrospect, White has nothing in this position to indicate that a kingside attack is a good plan. **12. ...c6 13.Qb3 Nh5!** (The exchange of White's dark squared bishop really shows now. My opponent shows his chess understanding with this move. I was getting the feeling that I was going to lose rather badly.) **14.g3 Bg4 15.Nh4 g6 16.Ne3**



(Position after 16.Ne3)

(Black has an unquestionable advantage here. White's positon is desperate and uncoordinated. Unfortunately for Black, it only takes one howler to lose a chess game...) **16. ...Nf4?? 17.Ng4 Nh5 18.Nh6+ Kg7??** 1-0

Black now resigned by knocking all of the pieces down and running out of the room. I didn't even get a chance to decide which knight to move to f5. What an ugly game of chess! But it crowned the tournament where I became a master for the first time. I was happy.

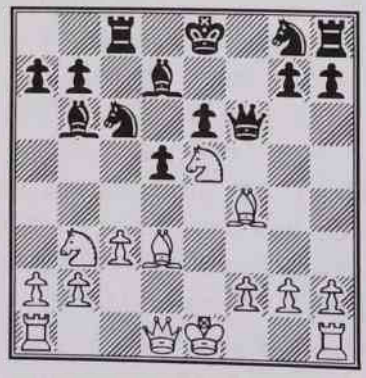
...

I continued on a hot streak over the next two months. My rating peaked at 2259 before the 1988 edition of the Fairfield Glade. I beat an expert in the first round and had thoughts of totally skipping the 2200 rating level by going straight to 2300. My fall came in round two with a very instructive loss.

Fairfield Glade
Jan 2, 1988 - Round 2, Board 2
French Defense - Advance Var.
(C02)

Bill Melvin	Ben Finegold
2182	2457

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Bd3 Rc8 7.dc Bc5 8.Nbd2 f6 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.Bf4? fe 11.Ne5?!



(Position after 11.Ne5?!)

(That's it. Those are the losing moves. I felt that White had a huge advantage (based on what?) and that threats like Qh5+ were bothersome. In retrospect, even simple moves like 11. ...Nf6 seem to work well for Black. After that, I'm sure I was planning something sinister like Bg5 and Ng4, but I'm sure Black isn't without resources. 11.Bg5 was arguably better although 11. ...Ne5 Ne5 12.Qg5 will then cost White a pawn.) **11. ...Qf6!** (Both the knight on e5 and the bishop on f4 are attacked. The knight cannot move to d3 since it is occupied nor to g6 since it is attacked. I was counting on 12.Qh5? to win on the spot. 12. ...Kd8 and 12. ...Ke7 both run into 13.Bg5 while 12. ...Kf8 runs into 13.Nd7. So far, so good! So the main line must be 12. ...g6. After this, the White queen cannot retreat without dropping a piece. 13.Ng6 hg 14.Bg6 Kf8 and White must either trade queens with 15.Qg5 or drop another piece after 15.Bd6 Kg7 or 15.Qg4 Rh4. Two pawns is losing compensation for a piece in this position. Also, 13.Bg6 leads to nowhere. White is busted with no one to blame but himself. The message to me was clear. If I want to get better at chess I've got to start analyzing all of the critical variations to the best of my ability and not rely upon intuition as a crutch. **12.Nd7 Bf2+ 13.Kf2 Qf4+ 14.Qf3 Qf3+ 15.gf Kd7 16.Nc5+ Ke7 17.Rae8 Nd8 18.Nb3 Kf6** (Black is a clear pawn up, but the position is clearly better for White than the piece sacrifice endings in the previous note.) **19.f4 Ne7 20.d4 Nec6 21.Nf3 Nf7 22.Ng5 Ng5 23.fg+ Ke7 24.Kg3 Kd6 25.Rhf1 h6 26.Rf2 hg**

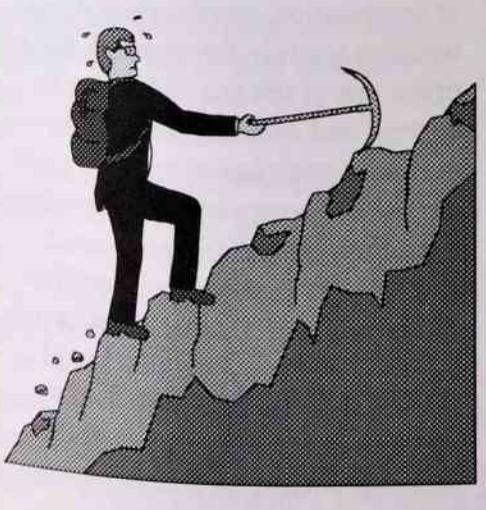
27.Rfe2 Rh6 28.a3 Rch8 (White can resign.) **29.Re3 Rh3+ 30.Kg4 Re3 31.Re3 Rh2 32.b3Ne5+ 33.Kg3 Rb2 34.Bf1 Rb3 35.a4 a5 36.Bb5 d4 37.Resigns.**

0-1

I was thoroughly outplayed in the ending as well. In the post mortem Ben showed me analysis to several moves that I never considered. It was now clearer what better players saw during a game of chess. They analyze more moves, more accurately, and more quickly. This is extremely hard to learn but is the essence of chess.

In the fourth round, I lost to a Class A player and my rating started a quick descent. It seems that the hardest part of obtaining (and keeping) a Master's rating is beating Class A players. Statistically, a 2200 rated player must beat a 1900 rated player seven times out of eight to keep a Master's rating. This is tough!

(To be continued in the next issue of Alabama Chess Antics !!!)



Upcoming Tournaments*

a few items from Ken Sloan's posting

Dates	Event	Contact and/or telephone
11/15 - 1/17	SC Scholastic (Orlando, FL)	Harvey Lerman
11/16	November QC (Gunter AFB)	Ceasar Lawrence
11/16	ACC Scholastic	
11/16	Chattanooga Scholastics	N.J. Hughes
11/16	Hamilton Co Open (TN)	Wayne Hedger
11/19-12/10	Birm'ham CC Tuesday Swiss	Kirk Petty
11/22-11/24	Georgia Open (Atlanta)	Scott Parker
11/29-12/1	Fall Classic (Nashville TN)	Ed Newkirk
11/29-12/1	Nat'l Chess Cong. (Phil PA)	
11/30	Tenn. Fall Scholastics	Ed Newkirk
12/1	1st Sun. Quads (Birm'ham)	Kenneth Sloan
12/7-12/8	Magic City Open (Birm'ham)	Bob Rieves
12/8	Scottsboro Boys	
12/13-12/15	Nat'l Scholastic K-12	MOVED to Columbus OH
12/14	ACC Scholastic (Atlanta)	
1/5	1st Sun. Quads (Birm'ham)	Kenneth Sloan
1/3 - 1/5	Fairfield Glade (TN)	Harry Sabine
1/18	January QC (Gunter AFB)	Ceasar Lawrence
1/25	Super Bowl Scholastic	page 24, this newsletter
2/2	1st Sun. Quads (Birm'ham)	Kenneth Sloan
2/8	Hoover Scholastic	Vasha Rosenblum
??	Queen of Hearts (Montg'ry)	Rhodes Peele

* This list is probably not complete since it depends on voluntary submissions by tournament organizers.

Stranger in a Strange Land *by David Hayes*

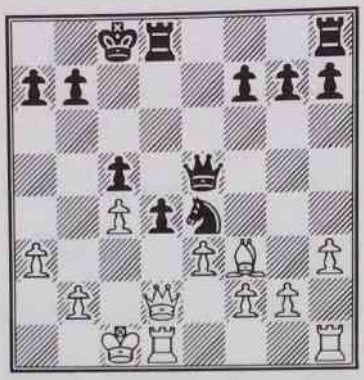
My job called me to our capital city for several weeks. I was a stranger to this place. So I took the opportunity to discover some of the local chess scene. The District is truly a strange place, but it has some top-rated chess players. The Arlington Chess Club and the U.S. Chess Center are two good places to play chess if you ever find yourself - - a stranger in a strange land.

The following two games are from my performance at the Hall of Fame Open conducted at the U.S. Chess Center. The first is against a highly rated Russian transplant. Notice how he obtains and maintains a quality position throughout. He plays a good Queen and Pawn endgame too.

Hall of Fame Open
U.S. Chess Center, Sept. 7, 1996

David Hayes	Alex Reprintsev
1726	2467

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 *(The rarely seen Albin Counter Gambit.)* **3.de d4 4.Nf3** *(Perhaps 4.f4 was best. 4.Nf3 offers little real defense of my extra pawn.)* **4. ...Nc6 5.Nbd2 Bg4** *(Black's gambit allows rapid and powerful development.)* **6.h3** *(It is hard to see at this point, but 6.a3 is stronger because it prevents Black from developing his other bishop with check.)* **6. ...bf3 7.Nf3 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Qe7 9.a3 Bd2+ 10.Qd2 O-O-O 11.O-O-O Ne5 12.Ne5 Qe5 13.e3 c5 14.Be2 Nf6 15.Bf3 Ne4**



(Position after 15. ...Ne4)

(As you have no doubt noticed, White is suffering from a lack of good moves. The rest of the game is just misery. My position is busted.) **16.Qc2 d3** *(Bill Melvin examined this position carefully and offers an assessment in the addendum at the end of the game.)* **17.Qb3 Rd7 18.Be4 Qe4 19.Rd2 Qg2 20.Rhd1 Rhd8 21.Qc3 f6 22.Rd3Rd3 23.Rd3 Qf1+!** *(Little combinations like that justify my opponent's 2400+ rating.)* **24.Kc2 Qf2+ 25.Kb3 Qf5 26.Rd8+ Kd8 27.Qa5+ Kc8 28.Qa7 Qd3+ 29.Ka2** *(Moving the king to a4 looked too dangerous in the long run. In post game analysis, I conclude that I saw ghosts in this move. Perhaps 29.Ka4 was better.)* **29. ...Qc4+ 30.Ka1 Qc1+ 31.Ka2 Qe3** *(Black sucks up my pawns like a vacuum cleaner as he slaps my king around the board.)* **32.Qa8+ Kc7 33.Qf8 Kc6 34.Qg7 Qe6+ 35.Ka1 h5 36.Qg2+ Qd5 37.Qg6 Qe5 38.Qg2+ Kb6 39.Qg6 h4 40.Qg4 Qd4 41.Qe6+ Ka7 42.Ka2 Qf2 43.a4 Qd4 44.b3 Qd2+ 45.Kb1 Qd3+ 46.Kb2 f5 47.Qe1 Qd4+ 48.Ka2?** *(Tired of getting my king slapped around, I blunder. Better was 48.Kc2 preparing to use my king as a fighting piece should the queens come off the board. Note that my opponent could continue to slap my king with checks, but will find it hard to make progress, whereas I will be happy to slap Black's king around if he tries to activate his king. Little blunders like this justify my 1700 rating.)* **48. ...f4 49.Qh4 f3 50.Qe1 f2 51.Resigns.** *(White resigns because Black's pawn cannot be stopped.)*

0-1

Addendum to D. Hayes's Analysis
by Bill Melvin

"How much should I trust my opponent?" The answer is: NOT AT ALL! I've always thought that 1600's grabbed pawns without thinking and 1800's refused pawns without thinking. Only experts look at the position carefully and decide when to capture the material. Nine times out of ten the 1600's are incorrect and swallow poison. However, one time out of ten they come out with a great positon. Nine times out of ten the 1800's are correct and stay alive. However, one time out of ten they miss a golden opportunity. My thought is that David treated this position as a Class A player would. His rating will rise incredibly when he does the analysis in such positions.

It would be interesting to know what he "saw" here. After 17.Rd3! Rd3(what else?) 18.Qd3 Nf2 19.Qb3, Black is embarrassed. Of course, 19. ...Nh1 20.Qb7+ Kd8 21.Qa8 Ke7 22.Qh8 is quite bad for Black (down a pawn with a miserable knight on h1.) My computer actually played 16. ...d3? in speed chess mode since 22.Qh8 was beyond its horizon. Once it got to its 19th move, though, it calmly played 19. ...Ne4. White takes over the initiative and a large advantage after 20.Rd1 where 20. ...Rd8 is bad and Rd5 is coming soon. Personally, I would be turning down draw offers in this position!

So it looks like David was closer to pulling the monster upset than he thought. He should not get discouraged. He had some great assets in this position. The bishop on f3 was wonderful fulfuilling both a defensive and offensive role. It was super strong of him not to play 16.Be4. I think 16.Qc2 was very insightful. This position was approximately dynamically balanced with an emphasis on DYNAMIC. Indeed, Mr. Reprintsev was having a very difficult time this round. It appears that he missed 19.Qb3 in his analysis.

All in all, I think David Hayes should be proud of this game. Find 17.Rd3! and I bet he gets at least a draw!

(We now continue with David Hayes's narrative - Ed.)

I managed to win my next two games with chances for the class prize. Watch how easily I let an opening advantage slip from my fingers as my opponent demonstrates superior middle game play.

Hall of Fame Open
U.S. Chess Center, Sept. 8, 1996

Herb Dropkin	David Hayes
1800	1726

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be3 O-O 6.Bd3 *(A premature development of the bishop making it a target. I wait to see whether White will make further errors before pouncing.)* **6. ...e5 7.Ne2 Ng4** *(The time is right.)* **8.Qd2 Ne3 9.Qe3 ed 10.Nd4 f5?!** *(My turn to play prematurely. White will not castle under my open f-file. This move weakens my kingside pawn structure. I found the threat of ...f4 to be too sweet to resist.)* **11.Nde2 Nc6 12.O-O-O fe 13.Be4 Ne5** *(A fine position that bites on air. Watch how my opponent moves like smoke around this position.)* **14.f3 Be6** *(The pawn on c4 was immune.)* **15.b3 Rb8?** *(A bad positional error. My opponent dare not take the b-pawn because it would open lines against his king. ...Rfe8 or ...c6 are much better. My opponent wastes no time with a superior plan.)* **16.h4 Qf6 17.Bd5 c6** *(What else?)* **18.Ne4 Qe7 19.Be6+ Qe6 20.Rd6 Qe7 21.Kc2 b5?** *(An act of desperation. ...Nf7 is better.)* **22.c5 a5 23.Nd4 a4 24.Ne6 ab+ 25.Qb3 Rf7 26.Ng7Kg7** *(All my opening advantage is gone now. I wait for death by pawn storm.)* **27.h5 Nc4 28.hg Nd6** *(I don't think I can survive 28. ...hg)* **29.cd Qd7 30.Qf7+ Qf7 31.gf Rf8 32.Ng5 Resigns** *(An ugly consequence of my own thoughtless moves.)*

I finished the single section tournament with two wins and two losses performing exactly as my rating indicating. I learned from my losses and wins alike. I returned home, but with honor.

1st Sunday Quads
by Kenneth Sloan

The August 1996 edition of Birmingham's First Sunday Quads attracted 20 players - five full quads! We go on hiatus next month and return in October. Join us!

In the top quad, Kyle Therrell was off form - he was actually tied for the lead by James Dreading. Dreading got some help from Organizer/TD/Player Kenneth Sloan when Sloan spoiled a winning position by dropping his king. Michael Schaetzle played, but did not score.

The second quad saw Wallace Fard upset Phillip Creel to earn a tie at the top. Richard Ellis and Robert Rieves tied for "not first".

The third Quad had three players from the same block in Mountain Brook, plus one new player. Daniel Weiss yielded a draw to his brother Jacob but was otherwise perfect. The other three were very closely matched, as Jacob lost to David Sloan who lost to Samuel Bond who lost to Jacob...

Quad 4 was Brennan Young against a field of Unrateds. Brennan dropped a game to Jonathon Gonnering, but defeated Ken Starkey and Adam O'Neal. Starkey lost only to Young, and these two tied for the lead.

Quad 5 had another pair of brothers. The Hocutt's (Chris and James Clayton) finished ahead of Thomas Young and David King. The first round was memorable in that both games ended in stalemate!

Junior Team Championship *by Dr. Kenneth Sloan*

The third annual **Alabama Junior Team** tournament was held at Trace Crossings Elementary School in Hoover. The event was organized by Dr. Vasha Rosenblum, who built a successful chess program at Trace Crossings and is now repeating the process at nearby South Shades Crest. Kenneth Sloan, Kyle Therrell, and Dale Robbins directed.

Twenty teams and seventy-nine players competed for prizes in two categories: Open (18 and under) and Reserve (12 and under). Individual plaques were to be awarded to each player on the top two teams in each category.

This event is unique in Alabama chess in that there are no restrictions on the composition of teams.

As was the case last year, the Punishers (Andy Reeder, John Morcos, David Sloan, and Peter Sloan) had both the highest and lowest rated players in the event. And, once again, the Punishers met the Mobile Marauders (Thomas

(continued on page 31)

Alabama Junior Team - 21 September 1996

	Team	Pre	Perf	Post	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Rd. 3	Rd. 4	Rd. 5	Total
1.	Mobile Mauraders	1229	1386	1269	W 20	W 12	W 09	W 02	W 04	5.0
2.	Punishers	1387	1211	1372	W 14	W 06	W 04	L 01	W 05	4.0
3.	Play Chess II	0753	1046	0810	W 19	L 04	W 15	W 06	W 09	4.0
4.	Knightmares	1026	1044	1030	W 08	W 03	L 02	W 07	L 01	3.0
5.	Pickup	0970	0991	0972	D 15	W 11	W 12	D 09	L 02	3.0
6.	Play Chess I	0886	0912	0885	W 10	L 02	W 08	L 03	W 16	3.0
7.	Advent Raging Rooks	0747	0856	0767	W 17	L 09	W 18	L 04	W 10	3.0
8.	Advent Kings and Queens	0706	0858	0735	L 04	W 19	L 06	W15	W 12	3.0
9.	Advent Battling Bishops	0957	0856	0938	W 16	W 07	L 01	D 05	L 03	2.5
10.	Raging Rooks	UNR	0731	0731	L 06	D 14	W 19	W 16	L 07	2.5
11.	Killer Knights	UNR	0791	0791	D 13	L 05	W 14	L 12	W 18	2.5
12.	Killer Kings	0820	0785	0809	W 18	L 01	L 05	W 11	L 08	2.0
13.	Fighting Knights	0766	0589	0729	D 11	D 15	L 16	D 18	D 14	2.0
14.	Advent Jumping Knights	0743	0763	0736	L 02	D 10	L 11	W 17	D 13	2.0
15.	King Killers	0599	0707	0620	D 05	D 13	L 03	L 08	W 20	2.0
16.	Raging Rooks	0583	0696	0603	L 09	W 17	W 13	L 10	L 06	2.0
17.	Bishop Bashers	UNR	0539	0539	L 07	L 16	W 20	L 14	D 19	1.5
18.	Rocking Rooks	UNR	0627	0627	L 12	W 20	L 07	D 13	L 11	1.5
19.	Pawn Promoters	UNR	0560	0560	L 03	L 08	L 10	W 20	D 17	1.5
20.	SSC Cyclone	0741	0311	0647	L 01	L 18	L 17	L 19	L 15	0.0

Alabama Junior Team Individuals

by Kenneth Sloan

1.	Andy Reeder	W29	W27	W25	W24	W08	**5.0**
2.	Shafer B. Gaston	W77	W32	W09	W07	W46	**5.0**
3.	William Berry	W76	W20	W60	W50	W16	**5.0**
4.	John N. Morcos	W68	W30	W39	D05	W10	**4.5**
5.	Chad Aaron Wilbanks	W78	W66	W65	D04	W39	**4.5**
6.	Hamilton Simpson	W58	D39	W69	W30	W65	**4.5**
7.	David Sloan	W12	W34	W46	L02	W54	**4.0**
8.	Sebastian DeLorenz	W67	W55	W45	W26	L01	**4.0**
9.	Lewis Lehe	W49	W13	L02	W54	W73	**4.0**
10.	Demian DeLorenz	W69	W15	W66	W65	L04	**4.0**
11.	Sophie Cooper	W61	W65	W70	L39	W38	**4.0**
12.	Jack Gerrity	L07	W37	W59	W51	W79	**4.0**
13.	Jessica Battle	W51	L09	W56	W46	W37	**4.0**
14.	Ashley Mitchell	W54	W79	W73	L48	W77	**4.0**
15.	Patrick Hartley	W21	L10	W68	W66	W70	**4.0**
16.	Michael Dupre	W42	W17	W50	W19	L01	**4.0**
17.	Andrew Meythaler	W62	L16	W43	W22	W60	**4.0**
18.	Marshall Young	W57	L25	D67	W27	W26	**3.5**
19.	David Hall	W33	D60	W52	L16	W53	**3.5**
20.	Brian Turner	W52	L03	W80	W35	D42	**3.5**
21.	Jonathan Harris	L15	W69	D71	W70	W68	**3.5**
22.	Ben Davis	W53	W50	D42	L17	W36	**3.5**
23.	Jason Young	W35	D43	W36	L52	bye	**3.5**
24.	Thomas Elmes	W41	W45	L26	L01	W25	**3.0**
25.	Jordan Jones	W28	W18	L01	W47	L24	**3.0**
26.	Roy Martin	W63	W47	W24	L08	L18	**3.0**
27.	Joshua Cowart	W44	L01	W28	L18	W63	**3.0**
28.	Forrest Pearce	L25	W57	L27	W67	W45	**3.0**
29.	Brooks Taylor	L01	W44	L55	W74	W40	**3.0**
30.	Matt Messman	W38	L04	W31	L06	W71	**3.0**
31.	Kelly Stewart	L39	W58	L30	W69	W66	**3.0**
32.	David King	W56	L02	L54	W59	W48	**3.0**
33.	Austin Schwaller	L19	L36	W76	bye	W62	**3.0**
34.	Edward Murrell	L37	L07	W48	W73	W49	**3.0**
35.	Bryan Jordan	L23	W80	bye	L20	W52	**3.0**
36.	Gary Williams	W60	W33	L23	W53	L22	**3.0**
37.	Toni Renea Williams	W34	L12	W64	W49	L13	**3.0**
38.	Jarrod Conningham	L30	W68	W58	W71	L11	**3.0**
39.	Brennan G. Young	W31	D06	L04	W11	L05	**2.5**
40.	Uche Aziza Afrika	W55	D67	L63	W72	L29	**2.5**
41.	Matthew Michel	L24	L72	W74	D57	W67	**2.5**
42.	Tyler Lester	L16	D62	D22	W43	D20	**2.5**
43.	Christopher Yancey	W80	D23	L17	L42	W76	**2.5**
44.	Sean Wilson	L27	L29	D57	W63	W47	**2.5**
45.	Sam Thompson	W72	L24	L08	W55	L28	**2.0**
46.	Nathaniel Dermody	W48	W73	L07	L13	L02	**2.0**
47.	John T. Killian	W74	L26	W72	L25	L44	**2.0**
48.	Carrie Staver	L46	W64	L34	W14	L32	**2.0**
49.	Jeremy Thomas	L09	W51	W79	L37	L34	**2.0**
50.	Peter Sloan	bye	L22	L16	L03	W80	**2.0**
51.	David Silvester	L13	L49	W77	L12	W64	**2.0**
52.	Will Coker	L20	W76	L19	W23	L35	**2.0**
53.	April Newton	L22	bye	W62	L36	L19	**2.0**
54.	Mason Williams	L14	W59	W32	L09	L07	**2.0**
55.	Jeremy Reed	L40	L08	W29	L45	W72	**2.0**
56.	Justin Camp	L32	W77	L13	W79	L59	**2.0**
57.	Daniel Hall	L18	L28	D44	D41	W74	**2.0**
58.	William Bridwell	L06	L31	L38	W78	W61	**2.0**
59.	Jason Turner	W79	L54	L12	L32	W56	**2.0**
60.	Travis Briles	L36	D19	L03	W80	L17	**1.5**
61.	Hunter Benson	L11	D71	W78	L68	L58	**1.5**
62.	Robby Bartels	L17	D42	L53	W76	L33	**1.5**
63.	Kendra King	L26	D74	W40	L44	L27	**1.5**
64.	Jessica Kennemer	D73	L48	L37	W77	L51	**1.5**
65.	Nathan Hall	W71	L11	L05	L10	L06	**1.0**
66.	Christopher Smith	W70	L05	L10	L15	L31	**1.0**
67.	Kyle Colpack	L08	D40	D18	L28	L41	**1.0**
68.	E.T. Brown IV	L04	L38	L15	W61	L21	**1.0**
69.	Amanda Erin Gamel	L10	L21	L06	L31	W78	**1.0**
70.	Hunter Stevens	L66	W78	L11	L21	L15	**1.0**
71.	Stephen Walker Jr.	L65	D61	D21	L38	L30	**1.0**
72.	Will Yarborough	L45	W41	L47	L40	L55	**1.0**
73.	Brandon Newton	D64	L46	L14	L34	L09	**0.5**
74.	David McConnell	L47	D63	L41	L29	L57	**0.5**
75.	bye	F	F	F	F	F	**0.0**
76.	Vince McLeod	L03	L52	L33	L62	L43	**0.0**
77.	Mark Wadley	L02	L56	L51	L64	L14	**0.0**
78.	Grifin Bruns	L05	L70	L61	L58	L69	**0.0**
79.	Christopher Thomas	L59	L14	L49	L56	L12	**0.0**
80.	Shannon Stewart	L43	L35	L20	L60	L50	**0.0**

Springville Road Library Scholastic Crosstables

by Kenneth Sloan

Springville Road Library Unrated
12 October 1996 - Open Section

	Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1	Roy Martin	W07	L03	W06	W02	W05	4.0
2	Demian DeLorenz	W05	W06	W03	L01	W07	4.0
3	Warren T. Robbins	B	W01	L02	W04	W06	4.0
4	Peter M. Summer	L06	W07	W05	L03	B	3.0
5	Max Early-Sorrells	L02	B	L04	W07	L01	2.0
6	Adam Stranahan	W04	L02	L01	B	L03	2.0
7	Albert Lassiter	L01	L04	B	L05	L02	1.0

Springville Road Library Unrated
12 October 1996 - Primary Section (K - 3)

	Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1	Nathan Hall	W19	L04	W12	W11	W05	4.0
2	John Killian	W17	W15	L04	W09	W07	4.0
3	Uche Afrika	W10	W12	L05	W04	W08	4.0
4	Joseph Chaffee	B	W01	W02	L03	W06	4.0
5	John S. Watts	W16	W14	W03	W06	L01	4.0
6	Carrie Stayer	W18	W09	W08	L05	L04	3.0
7	Katie Dunne	W21	L08	W10	W17	L02	3.0
8	Peter Petroff	W11	W07	L06	W15	L03	3.0
9	Jacklyn Nagle	W13	L06	W19	L02	W20	3.0
10	Nathaniel Chandler	L03	W23	L07	W20	W14	3.0
11	Sturgeon Christie	L08	W21	W13	L01	W18	3.0
12	Mason Williams	W20	L03	L01	W13	W17	3.0
13	Montgomery Brown	L09	B	L11	L12	W21	2.0
14	Peter Sloan	W22	L05	L17	W21	L10	2.0
15	Heather Skanes	W23	L02	D18	L08	D19	2.0
16	Trey Kennedy	L05	L18	L20	W22	W23	2.0
17	Jeremy Freeman	L02	W22	W14	L07	L12	2.0
18	Paul Voorhees	L06	W16	D15	H	L11	2.0
19	Jeremy Lee	L01	D20	L09	W23	D15	2.0
20	Evan Miller	L12	D19	W16	L10	L09	1.5
21	Elizabeth Nagle	L07	L11	W22	L14	L13	1.0
22	Max Griffies	L14	L17	L21	L16	B	1.0
23	Elizabeth Scott	L15	L10	B	L19	L16	1.0

Springville Road Library Unrated
12 October 1996 - Elementary Section (K - 6)

	Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1	Ethan A.Balch	W23	W13	W06	W11	W03	5.0
2	Sebastian DeLorenz	L13	W21	W12	W10	W11	4.0
3	Brennan G. Young	W16	W10	W09	W08	L01	4.0
4	Lewis Lehe	W28	L06	W19	W20	W13	4.0
5	Sophie Cooper	L06	W28	W24	W14	W08	4.0
6	Hamilton Simpson	W05	W04	L01	W07	W15	4.0
7	Sam Thompson	W22	W25	L11	L06	W20	3.0
8	Travis Briles	W21	W24	W20	L03	L05	3.0
9	Lee Martin	W29	W17	L03	L13	W19	3.0
10	Joseph C. Kervin	W27	L03	W16	L02	W22	3.0
11	Marshall D. Young	W26	W14	W07	L01	L02	3.0
12	Jack Gerrity	L20	W27	L02	W25	W24	3.0
13	David Hall	W02	L01	W18	W09	L04	3.0
14	Justin Saia	W19	L11	W25	L05	D16	2.5
15	E. T. Brown	L24	W29	D17	W18	L06	2.5
16	Tyler Lester	L03	B	L10	W26	D14	2.5
17	Kendra King	B	L09	D15	L22	W25	2.5
18	Brooks Taylor	L25	W22	L13	L15	W29	2.0
19	Ashley Mitchell	L14	W26	L04	W29	L09	2.0
20	Jeremy Reed	W12	W23	L08	L04	L07	2.0
21	Bryan Enfinger	L08	L02	L22	W28	W27	2.0
22	Banjamin Sibley	L07	L18	W21	W17	L10	2.0
23	Josh Crichton	L01	L20	W27	L24	W26	2.0
24	Wayne J. Lee, Jr.	W15	L08	L05	W23	L12	2.0
25	Brian Turner	W18	L07	L14	L12	L17	1.0
26	Marie Wilson	L11	L19	B	L16	L23	1.0
27	Patrick Gilbert	L10	L12	L23	B	L21	1.0
28	Angeline Antonison	L04	L05	L29	L21	B	1.0
29	Jason Turner	L09	L15	W28	L19	L18	1.0

Legal's Legacy *by Jack Mallory*

Many young cheessplayers, and even some older players, have no interest in games and players from the rich history of chess. Why bother with the ideas of players dead for nearly 300 years? The answer should be obvious to an aspiring student. Modern play is based on a foundation of ideas first discovered by great players of the past. The following game played by 13 year old Thomas Elmes in a 1996 tournament follows closely a game played by M. de Kemur, Sire de Legal in 1750. Legal was the strongest player in the world until he was surpassed by his student, Andre Philidor.

Elmes (1268) Thompson (1518)
Sliddell, Louisiana 1996

1.e4 **e5**
2.Nf3 **...**

Legal played Bc4.

2 ... **d6**

Philidor's Defense.

3.Nc3 **...**

Developing a piece and attacking the center squares, but the standard line, 3.d4 is more active.

3. ... **Nf6**

Also developing a knight that hits at the center.

4.Bc4 **...**

Developing a piece, hitting at the center, and preparing to castle.

4. ... **Bg4**

Developing and pinning White's knight.

5.h3 **...**

Putting the question to the bishop. White's pawn move does not waste time since it forces black to also spend a tempo moving his already developed bishop.

5. ... **Bh5**

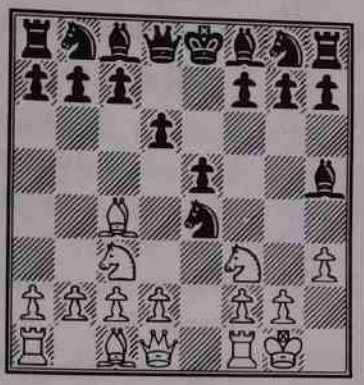
Escaping the pawn's attack.

6.O-O **...**

Getting White's king to safety and activating the rook.

6. ... **N x e4 ?**

Black apparently thinks White's king's knight is pinned, so he can snatch a pawn. If now 7.N x N, then the Fork Trick 7. ...d5 regains the piece. However, Black has only two developed pieces, while White has three pieces developed and has castled. Black should be striving to catch up in development as quickly as practicable. He should be very suspicious of spending time in the opening to take a pawn.



7. N x e5 !! **...**

White realizes that Black's last move has removed Black's knight's defense of the d5 square, allowing Legal's attack. So he attacks f7 leaving Black with two loose pieces. White knows that his queen is deadly poisonous! **He knows this because he recognizes the pattern on the board!**

7. ... **B x d1 ??**

Black is not familiar with the Legal mate and cannot resist the poison fruit. He is convinced that his young opponent has blundered away a queen. He has not learned to fear young Alabamians offering gifts.

8.Bxf7 + **...**

This must have been a severe shock to Black.

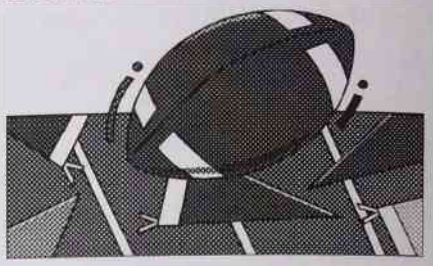
8. ... **Ke7**
9.Nd5 mate

Why study the old masters? Why indeed!

Super Bowl Scholastic Chess Tournament

5 Rd. Swiss - 3 Sections - USCF QC Rated

High School : 7th - 12th Grade
Elementary: 4th - 6th Grade
Primary: K - 3rd Grade



When: Saturday, January 25, 1996
Entry fee: $10 (cash) for each player
Time Control: Game in 25 minutes
Where: Highland Gardens Elementary School
2801 Willena Avenue
Montgomery, AL
Registration: 8:00 A.M. til 9:30 A.M.
Rounds: 10:00; 11:15; 1:00; 2:15; 3:30

Prizes: Trophy to top 3 in each Section!
Plus door prizes: Chess magazines and/or Books.

Questions:
Caesar Lawrence (TD)

Notice: USCF and ACF Membership and ID Required; NS, NC, W
Newcomers can join USCF and ACF at the site.

This is a "LET'S PLAY CHESS" Production ...

Caesar's Chess Calendar - Nov. 96 thru May '97 (as of 1 Oct. '96)

16 Nov. '96	November QC - G/29	Rec Center, Gunter AFB, Montgomery
18 Jan. '96	January QC - G/29	Rec Center, Gunter AFG, Montgomery
25 Jan. '96	**Super Bowl Scholastic**	**Highland Gardens Elememtary, Mont.**
15 Mar. '96	March QC - G/29	Rec Center, Gunter AFB, Montgomery
19 Apr. '96	April QC - G/29	Rec Center, Gunter AFB, Montgomery
10 May '96	**AL G/29 Championship**	**Rec Center, Gunter AFB, Montgomery**

Alabama Scholastic Chess Lending Library
by Vasha Rosenblum

Vasha Rosenblum will be assisting Sam Whatley in his responsibilities as the Alabama Chess Federation Scholastic Coordinator, by administering the Scholastic Lending Library. The library presently includes eighteen books and three videotapes which may be loaned for a period of 30 days. Items returned after 30 days incur a $5.00 late fee payable to ACF. Items not returned after 45 days incur a fee equal to the replacement cost, payable to ACF. Materials will be mailed in a box suitable for their return. Postage will be paid by ACF. If you wish to borrow any of the materials listed below, contact Ms. Rosenblum.

BOOKS

Averbakh, Y. & Chekhover, V. (1986) **Comprehensive Chess Endings, Volume 1**. 309 pages. This volume includes Bishop endings and Knight endings. In each section, the aim has been to give an exhaustive coverage of basic positions with a small number of pawns, and to show the typical ideas in more complicated positions with a larger number of pawns. (Pergamon Press, $25)

Averbakh, Y. (1984) **Comprehensive Chess Endings, Volume 2**. 249 pages. This volume includes Bishop against Knight endings and Rook against minor piece endings. (Pergamon Press, $25)

Averbakh, Y., Henkin, V., & Chekhover, V. (1986) **Comprehensive Chess Endings, Volume 3**. 309 pages. This volume includes Queen and Pawn endings, Queen against Rook endings, and Queen against minor piece endings. (Pergamon Press, $25)

Averbakh, Y. & Maizelis, I. (1987) **Comprehensive Chess Endings, Volume 4**. 296 pages. This volume covers Pawn endings. (Pergamon Press, $25)

Averbakh, Y. & Kopayev, N. (1987) **Comprehensive Chess Endings, Volume 5**. 326 pages. This volume covers Rook endings. (Pergamon Press, $25)

Fine, Reuben. (1941) **Basic Chess Endings**. 573 pages. "This is the definitive work done on the endgame, which all serious students of the game have been waiting for. It is a prodigious feat of chess scholarship, presented to the reader in clear, pithy language, full of telling phrases that will linger in the memory and rise to aid the harassed competitor just when he needs it most." *The New York Times* (Random House, $17).

Fischer, Bobby. (1966) **Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess**. 178 pages. "Here is the fastest, most efficient, most enjoyable book on chess ever compiled." (Bantam, $6.99)

Kasparov, Gary & Keene, Raymond. (1989) **Batesford Chess Openings 2**. 413 pages. "BCO 2 is the definitive single-volume openings encyclopedia. It has been designed both for maximum ease of use and for maximum relevance to the needs of competitive players. It is *the* essential book, whatever your standard of play." (Henry Holt, $30)

Keene, Raymond & Levy, David. (1974) **How to Play the Opening in Chess**. 162 pages. "This book helps you make your choice by focusing on the principles of openings and avoiding lengthy and confusing variations. Particular emphasis has been placed on openings favored by Gary Kasparov, Nigel Short, Bobby Fischer, and Boris Spassky." (Henry Holt, $14.95)

Seirawan, Yasser with Silman, Jeremy. (1992) **Winning Chess Tactics**. 254 pages.
Tactics and combinations, compiled and explained by one of the U.S.A.'s top chess players, featuring actual board positions from the games of history's great chess tacticians. Review tests for each topic let you track your improvement. (Tempus Books of Microsoft Press, $14.95)

Tartakower, Dr. S. & DuMont, J. (1975) **500 Master Games of Chess**. 665 pages.
Book 1: Open Games, Book 2: Semi-Open Games; and Book 3 Closed Games are included in one volume. This compilation of 500 master games claims to be the greatest standard collection of chess games ever published in English. (Dover Publications, $12.95)

World Chess Federation. (1979) **Encyclopedia of Chess Openings Volume A**. 476 pages.
This set of books has an international character. The work is written in chess language, an international system of symbols, and the authors are the most eminent grandmasters from the whole world, experts for individual opening and variants. It is said to satisfy the requirements of beginners and experts by its method of treatment. (Chess Informant, $35.00)

World Chess Federation. (1984) **Encyclopedia of Chess Openings Volume B**. 509 pages. (Chess Informant, $35.00)

World Chess Federation. (1981) **Encyclopedia of Chess Openings Volume C**. 487 pages. (Chess Informant, $35.00)

World Chess Federation. (1982) **Encyclopedia of Chess Endings: Pawn**. 383 pages.
This series is said to be for beginners, instructors, tournament players - for all those who wish to penetrate into the secrets of a field of chess where its principles appear in their purest form. (Chess Informant, $35.00)

World Chess Federation. (1985) **Encyclopedia of Chess Endings: Rook**. 422 pages (Chess Informant, $35.00)

World Chess Federation. (1986) **Encyclopedia of Chess Endings: Rook**. 426 pages (Chess Informant, $35.00)

World Chess Federation. (1989) **Encyclopedia of Chess Endings: Queen**. 446 pages (Chess Informant, $35)

VIDEO TAPES

Mednis, Edmar. **King and Pawn Endgames**. 1 hour 46 minutes ($32.95)

Mednis, Edmar. **Middlegame Analysis**. 2 hours ($34.95)

Mednis, Edmar. **Basic Principles of Chess Volume II: Rook and Pawn Endgames**. ($34.95)

Rules for Scholastic Championships *by Sam Whatley*

The Executive Officers have made a minor change in the ACF's Rules for Alabama State Scholastic Chess Team Championships. The new change will **allow the organizer the option of disallowing alternates on participating teams.** The use of alternates has some advantages, but significangly increases the required record keeping during the tournament.

Paragraph II will now state (changes in *italics;* see the Rules for the footnote the asterisk refers to which is not affected by the changes):

II. All players must be enrolled as students in a school located in the State of Alabama and be members of the Alabama Chess Federation. A team shall consist of four players and *possibly* an alternate. *Sponsors of these tournaments have the option of prohibiting the use of alternate players by all participating teams.* All players on a team must be enrolled in the same school* and must be in grades K through 3rd for primary teams, K through 6th for elementary teams, K through 9th for junior high teams, and K through 12th for high school teams.

3rd Greater Alabama Open *by Caesar Lawrence*

The 1996 edition of the Greater Alabama Open was planned, organized and directed by me - Caesar Lawrence. This tournament was started by Zack Kinney in 1994 as an alternative chess excursion. If not for the 'Queen of Hearts", Montgomery would not have been called a chess town. Now with this tournament and the monthly "QC - G/29" tournaments, Montgomery is the place to play chess for players in cities such as: Pratville, Wetumpka, Phoenix City, Burmingham, Tuscaloosa, Enterprise, Slocomb, Auburn, Columbus, Fort Benning, Midland, and Pensacola.

(continued on page 31)

GAO3 - Open Section - August 3-4, 1996 - Gunter AFB

	Player	Pre	Post	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Rd. 3	Rd. 4	Rd. 5	Total
1.	Andy Reeder	2043	2081	W 10	W 3	W 4	L 2	W 6	4.0
2.	Tim Bond	1954	2013	L 3	W 10	W 6	W 1	W 4	4.0
3.	Robert Pruitt	2049	2050	W 2	L 1	.5 bye	W 5	D 9	3.0
4.	Richard Frye	2155	2081	D 7	W 9	L 1	W 8	L 2	2.5
5.	Jere Roland	2024	2000	L 9	D 8	W 7	L 3	bye	2.5
6.	Thomas Lawry	2004	1987	D 8	W 7	L 2	W 10	L 1	2.5
7.	Charles "Ray" Downs	1961	1962	D 4	L 6	L 5	W 9	W 8	2.5
8.	Raymond Quillian	1855	1865	D 6	D 5	W 9	L 4	L 7	2.0
9.	Louis DeFiore	1800	1807	W 5	L 4	L 8	L 7	D 3	1.5
10.	Walter Schaetzle	1800	1800	L 1	L 2	bye	L 6	-	1.0

GAO3 - Reserve Section - August 3-4, 1996 - Gunter AFB

	Player	Pre	Post	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Rd. 3	Rd. 4	Rd. 5	Total
1.	James Richardson	1478	1530	W 3	D 2	W 4	W 6	W 5	4.5
2.	Timpthy Nunnally	1372	1409	W 4	D 1	.5 bye	D 5	W 6	3.5
3.	John O'Connor	1596	1590	L 1	L 5	W 9	W 8	W 7	3.0
4.	Richard Smith	1376	1346	L 2	bye	L 1	FW	W 8	3.0
5.	Lamar Causey	1572	1545	D 8	W 3	D 6	D 2	L 1	2.5
6.	Riley Lane	1215	1238	bye	W 7	D 5	L 1	L 2	2.5
7.	Edward Lamboy	1498	1455	W 9	L 6	L 8	bye	L 3	2.0
8.	Barry Allen	1502	1466	D 5	L 9	W 7	L 3	L 4	1.5
9.	Patrick Lipscomb	Unr	1399	L 7	W 8	L 3	FL	-	1.0

1996 Birmingham Championship *by Kyle Therrell*

The 1996 Birmingham Championship was held in two parts, in late June and late July.

The Qualifying Tournament, a 4-round Swiss with a time control of G/60, drew 29 players. The top three finishers were to advance to the Round-Robin Final. Qualifying outright were Andy Reeder and Roy Stanton; not surprisingly, though, there was a tie for the third spot. This year we dispensed with the speed playoffs of last year in favor of standard tiebreaks. The last qualifying spot was awarded on that basis to Kenneth Sloan. Due to a conflict on the date of the round-robin, Sloan stepped aside and was replaced by the next in line, Michael Schaetzle.

Reeder, Stanton and Sloan received Qualifier trophies. Class trophies were awarded as follows: Class A , Jack Gwin (on tiebreak); Class B: Michael Schaetzle; Class C, David Morrison (tiebreak); Class D, Tim Nunnally (tiebreak; all members of Class D had the same score!); Class E and Unrated, Jonathan Wright.

The Round-Robin Final was contested (at G/90) among Reeder, Stanton, Schaetzle and the defending champion, Kyle Therrell (your correcpondent). When the smoke cleared, I had managed to defend the title (and get a trophy). Perhaps most notable about the tournament, though, was the rather tough play of lowest-rated Mike Schaetzle; he reached a drawing position against me and (I think) a winning one against Andy Reeder, before slipping in the end.

Thanks to Sue Morcos for procuring the trophies, and to Bob Reives for directing the rounbd-robin. I directed the qualifying tournament (no conflict of interest there, folks).

1996 Birmingham Chappionship Qualifying Tournament

	Player	Pre	Post	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Rd. 3	Rd. 4	Total
1.	Andy Reeder	1986	2005	W 15	W 5	W 3	W 10	4.0
2.	Roy Stanton	1703	1739	W 18	W 22	D 10	W 9	3.5
3.	Kenneth Sloan	1754	1763	W 17	W 6	L 1	W 13	3.0
4.	Michael Schaetzle	1679	1702	W 20	W 8	L 9	W 15	3.0
5.	William Morrison	1570	1582	W 28	L 1	W 14	W 18	3.0
6.	Robert Bashinsky	1540	1545	W 25	L 3	W 16	W 19	3.0
7.	Wallace Fard	1484	1517	W 27	.5 bye	W 12	D 8	3.0
8.	James Dreading	1925	1890	W 14	L 4	W 11	D 7	2.5
9.	John Morcos	1858	1833	W 19	D 11	W 4	L 2	2.5
10.	Jack Gwin	1820	1813	W 17	W 13	D 2	L 1	2.5
11.	Jonathan Wright	1188	1449	.5 bye	W 23	L 8	W 22	2.5
12.	Orville Story	1510	1505	W 29	D 9	L 7	.5 bye	2.0
13.	Richard Ralls	1507	1503	W 26	L 10	W 17	L 3	2.0
14.	Scott Miller	1454	1441	L 8	W 25	L 5	W 26	2.0
15.	Timothy Nunnally	1371	1372	L 1	W 28	W 24	L 4	2.0

(continued next page)

16.	Robert Rieves	1351	1347	L 10	W 26	L 6	W 27	2.0
17.	Jacob Weiss	1292	1295	L 3	W 27	L 13	W 24	2.0
18.	Daniel Weiss	1180	1204	L 2	W 21	W 23	L 5	2.0
19.	David Sloan	1171	1197	L 9	W 29	W 22	L 6	2.0
20.	Philip Norton	1174	1144	L 4	L 24	W 29	D 21	1.5
21.	Burton Flannagan	868	951	L 22	L 18	W 25	D 20	1.5
22.	Richard Ellis	1500	1500	W 21	L 2	L 19	L 11	1.0
23.	Walter Higginbotham	1418	1330	W 24	L 11	L 18	-	1.0
24.	Samuel Bond	917	1013	L 23	W 20	L 15	L 17	1.0
25.	Chris Hocutt	844	844	L 6	L 14	L 21	W 29	1.0
26.	James Hocutt	626	691	L 13	L 16	bye	L 14	1.0
27.	Jonathan Gonnering	unr	1087	L 7	L 17	W 28	L 16	1.0
28.	Brennan Young	1019	1001	L 5	L 15	L 27	-	0.0
29.	Joseph Donahue	unr	775	L 12	L 19	L 20	L 25	0.0

1996 Birmingham Championship

	Player	Pre	Post	1.	2.	3.	4..	Total
1.	Kyle Therrell	2214	2223		W	W	W	3.0
2.	Andy Reeder	2043	2043	L		W	W	2.0
3.	Roy Stanton	1739	1748	L	L		W	1.0
4.	Michael Schaetzle	1740	1717	L	L	L		0.0

(continued from page 29)

This year the GAO drew 19 gallant players with two thirds of them coming from cities outside of the metro Montgomery area. Again there were no Master rated players, but the Open section posted an average rating of 1965. Tim Bond and Andy Reeder won the Open section with a score of 4 out of 5. Tim matched up with Andy in the fourth round and won that game to contend for the top honor going into the last round. Andy (kinda) easily won his last game and had to wait for over an hour to see if he was the undisputed champ of the third GAO. Tim played with gusto and beat his friend and the tournament's highest rated player - Richard Frye - in a hard fought battle.

The Reserve section was won by the youngest player entered - James Richardson. He scored 4.5 points. James is in my opinion another Andy Reeder or Andrew Whately. He is consistently getting better at the game and might be a player that strikes fear in the hearts of his opponents - in the near future.

(continued from page 22)

Elmes, Chad Wilbanks, Shafer Gaston, William Berry) in round 4. Chad Wilbanks held John Morcos to a draw, and Shafer Gaston defeated David Sloan. The Marauders prevailed 2.5 - 1.5 to take first place; the Punishers had to settle for second ... again.

Leading the Reserve group was a team from the "Play Chess" program at the Homewood Public Library. Marshall Young was the most experienced member of this team, with a provisional rating of 753 points based on six (6) games. The others (Hamilton Simpson, Brandon Newton, and Andres Meythaler) were all playing in their first USCF rated event! Second place in the Under-12 division was once again decided on (unfair!) tiebreaks. John Killian, Sophie Cooper, Jessica Battle and David Hall took home the plaques for the Advant Raging Rooks.

Sharing individual honors with perfect 5-0 scores were Andy Reeder of board 1, Shafer Gaston on board 3 and William Berry on board 4. John Morcos, Chad Wilbanks, and (unrated!) Hamilton Simpson led all blard 2 players with 4.5 each.

The **Alabama Chess Federation** (ACF) is the United States Chess Federation (USCF) affiliate for the state of Alabama. Membership is open to any interested individual or organization by paying the annual membership dues. Please support Alabama chess by **joining** or **renewing** your annual membership in ACF. Benefits of membership include a subscription to the quarterly publication *Alabama Chess Antics.*

ACF Membership Application

☐ Regular, $10 ☐ Scholastic (under 19), $4 ☐ Affiliate, $15

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
USCF ID# (if applicable) _____
Phone and/or E-mail address _____

Mail this coupon or a photocopy along with payment to
Jack Mallory/ ACF Secretary/

Alabama Chess Antics

c/o Jeff Lake
Publisher, Alabama Chess Antics

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage PAID
Albertville, AL 35950
Permit No. 18

Inside This Issue

- *Letter from ACF President Bill Melvin*
- *Heart-of-Dixie Tour Announcement*
- *Scholastic Chess*
- *News from the State Championship*
- *Many annotated games*
- *Largest Antics ever !!!*